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www.kentnews.co.uk October 30, 2011

MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 475

Shock stats reveal huge number of pupils bunk off lessons

By **Marijke Cox**
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FEARS have been raised over the worrying extent of absenteeism after figures revealed a staggering 15,040 pupils were persistently missing from Kent and Medway classrooms over just two terms.

Government statistics showed that in Kent's state-funded primary and secondary schools for the autumn term 2010 and spring term 2011 – a period of just 25 weeks – 12,629 pupils were absent for 15 per cent or more of the time, missing the equivalent of a month's worth of lessons in a year.

In Medway, it was 2,411 pupils.

Across the county there are 211,391 schoolchildren.

Kent County Council says it works closely with the police to check up on levels of truancy and that on some 'truancy sweeps' they have caught many

pupils who are accompanied by their parents on a shopping trip or day out.

The authority warned that parents could be fined or even prosecuted if they do not make sure their children attend school regularly.

Previously, children had to miss 20 per cent of school to be viewed as a persistent absentee, but the Government recently changed the threshold to 15 per cent so schools could step in earlier to tackle the problem.

Based on the 20 per cent threshold over the autumn and spring terms in Kent, the number of persistent absences had dropped from 6,233 to 5,996.

But ministers are looking to lower the threshold even more to stamp out the problem of children missing school.

The Government's education advisor on behaviour, headteacher, Charlie Taylor said the earlier poor patterns of

Continued on page 2



TRICK OR A TREAT? HALLOWEEN'S BACK

REAL TREAT: Youngster at Penshurst Place gets set for some weekend high jinks

TRAVEL

Airport chiefs' business plan

BIGGIN Hill Airport has withdrawn plans to expand to incorporate mainline passenger services – saying instead it is better suited to continue in its role of serving the business community as London's executive airfield. It means the withdrawal of the proposals it unveiled in 2005. **PAGE 2**

KIDNAP

Pirate couple vent their fury

PAUL and Rachel Chandler have hit out at the Foreign Office's handling of their 388-day ordeal at the hands of Somali pirates. The couple from Tunbridge Wells appeared this week before a select committee and criticised a lack of warnings before they were seized. **PAGE 7**

EVENTS

Get ready for firework fun

PLANNING to visit a firework display next weekend? Inside we take a look at some of the biggest events taking place across Kent on or around Bonfire Night which promise fun for all the family. The perfect guide to ensure your evening features lots of 'oohs' and 'aahs'. **PAGE 21**

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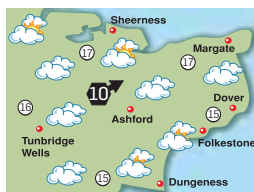
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Margate	01.33	4.8	14.03	5.0
St Mary's	06.35	5.8	18.59	5.5

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.37	6.8	12.59	6.8
Margate	01.33	4.8	14.03	5.0
St Mary's	06.35	5.8	18.59	5.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 15C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 17C	Min 12C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 14C	Min 8C
Saturday	Max 13C	Min 7C

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EXPENSES

Biggin Hill bosses pull plans to expand into mainline services

By Chris Britcher

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BIGGIN Hill Airport chiefs have withdrawn plans to allow mainline scheduled passenger services to operate from its base.

In submitting its recommendations to the Department for Transport in response to its consultation on future UK airport policy, it says it should focus on its executive and business services.

And that means the full withdrawal of the 2005 Master Plan proposals to allow mainline scheduled passenger services to operate from the Westerham airfield.

Jenny Munro, the airport's managing director, said: "The airlines generally want to operate to and from airports where they already have operational bases. There is still some space for them to grow at London's mainline airports, if capacity is used wisely.

"It is our recommendation that Biggin Hill should therefore build on its successful and now well-established position as London's executive airport, serving the business, executive and gen-

eral aviation needs of the capital and the local community."

The airport says statistics for 2010 show that 750 towns and cities across the world are served annually by business flights to and from London Biggin Hill. This equates to more than four times the number of destinations served by the UK's largest international hub, London Heathrow.

The MD added: "London needs to be readily available for international business leaders to reach us easily; equally for our business and industrial pathfinders to efficiently interact with new and existing markets abroad.

"Regardless of the ultimate solution, there will be no significant increase in capacity in the London area for 10-15 years at best. We must therefore be sure that wise use is made of the runway and airspace capacity that we already have, in order to protect London's competitive position for as long as possible.

"Biggin Hill Airport's role within that is to continue in its proven and successful niche as the only specialist executive airport in London, consistently offering flexibility, service, speed and efficiency to our customers."



EXECUTIVES: Biggin Hill has opted to focus on business service

Authorities take unauthorised school absence very seriously

Continued from front page

attendance were addressed by schools, the less likely it would become a persistent issue.

"Schools know all too well what a harmful effect poor patterns of attendance have on a child's future prospects," he said.

Absentee figures include authorised absences, such as doctor's appointments and family bereavements, and unauthorised absences, for example truancy and children being taken out of school by parents for holidays and family outings.

Earlier this year, nine headteachers in Sheppey teamed up to stop parents taking children out of school during term time for holidays after Ofsted high-

lighted low attendance rates.

Chairman of the group of headteachers Alan Bayford, head of West Minster Primary School in Sheerness, said decisions for absences for holidays would lie with the headteacher.

He stressed that most requests would not be granted and that parents who take their children out of school without authorisation could be fined by KCC.

A family from Sheppey were fined £150 earlier this year for taking their three children to Egypt during term time.

Richard and Kerri Mothersole argued that it would have cost £2,000 more in the school holidays and their children had suffered from anti-social behaviour in their street and needed to get away.

A KCC spokesman said the authority

took unauthorised absence seriously and that children and young people who missed significant school time did not perform as well at school or during exams as those who regularly attended.

"We are working with primary and secondary schools to reduce incidents of parents taking children out of school for unauthorised reasons, such as holidays and family outings," he said.

"We are also helping schools tackle persistent absence."

A Medway Council spokeswoman said the area was below the national average for persistent absentees.

"We work closely with schools to address absences and the reasons why pupils are not attending school and we have a dedicated attendance service that

continue to work to keep attendance high," she said.

"All schools have an allocated education welfare officer to monitor pupils who are causing concern due to absences.

"Attendance clinics and school assemblies raise awareness of the importance of good school attendance."

Christine Blower, of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The effect of regular absenteeism from school on a pupil's confidence and ability to understand what is being taught is greatly affected.

"A relevant and flexible curriculum, free from repetitive tests and targets, would go a long way to ensuring all our pupils remain engaged in the education process."

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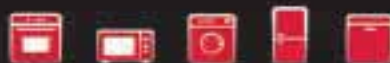
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Business Week Live

£2 billion tax on bankers' bonuses would aid hard-hit firms, says MP

By Nick Ames

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A SENIOR Labour MP has called for a £2 billion tax on bankers' bonuses to pay for moves to help business get back on its feet.

Shadow minister for further education, skills and regional growth Gordon Marsden, was talking at the Business Week Live organised by Archant KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, and also called for the freeing of £1.1bn of Euro-cash which could fund UK companies looking to expand.

"The Government's much-touted Regional Growth Fund has helped precisely no businesses in the South East," Mr Marsden told the audience of businesspeople at Dover Cruise Centre on Wednesday. "Meanwhile latest figures show a 27 per cent year-on-year increase in business failures in the region."

"Local unemployment is soaring, which is a real worry because the South East is one of the key regions where, if the Tory-led Government had been right in its argument, the private sector would have soaked up public sector job losses."

"Unfortunately, the Government has been wrong at every turn, and its decision to cut too far and too fast is hurting business and growth in the South East."

Mr Marsden outlined Labour's five-step plan for jobs and growth, launched in the South East



TAX ATTACK: Gordon Marsden demanded action

last week. He said the plan would create up to 5,000 jobs for young people in the region, and see the building of 4,000 new homes.

He added it would temporarily reverse the VAT rise, giving families with children a £450 boost, and give up to 329,000 small firms across the region a tax break to take on extra workers.

Mr Marsden, MP for Blackpool South, said the problems facing his own constituency and other seaside town such as Dover had some similarities. He also criticised what he saw as a Government view that Kent is part of a prosperous South East and did not require any specific help with its economy.

Mr Marsden said: "Kent, although it is fairly

close to London, is an economic area full of second-level towns and cities and these face a crucial distinction when it comes to growth issues from larger cities.

"The current programme put in by the Government is not working. Inflation rates are putting pressure on the high street and we have seen business rate hikes. In fact, business confidence is pretty soggy across the whole of the UK."

He then told his audience how Labour's plans to "encourage, improve and galvanise" business would be paid for.

"Our plan would be funded by a £2bn tax on bankers' bonuses," he said.

Mr Marsden added more than £1bn of funding was available from Europe and action needed to be taken to ensure business and development receives the cash.

"In my own area some of the funding for regeneration came from money from the European Regional Development Fund. At present a sum of £1.1bn from that fund – which is 'our money' and given to us by the European Union – is frozen. It is not being distributed as the Government has not put together a mechanism to match that funding."

"If this is not forthcoming that money will go to the Treasury where it will be used to help pay off the deficit. But that European money would be useful to a lot of companies wanting to expand."

■ **For more on all the day's events at the Business Week Live event turn to p16-17.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Rockstars drugs alert

A BATCH of blue pills called Rockstars are circulating among teenagers in Folkestone. A boy, 15, has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a drug with intent to supply. They carry an R or star logo and are being sold for up to £10 each. Reactions range from stomach pains resulting in hospital admissions to excessive teeth grinding. It is not known whether the pills are linked to red rockstars ecstasy, suspected of causing the death of a 25-year-old in County Durham on Sunday.

➔ Knives move welcomed

THE father of murdered Harry Potter star Rob Knox, 18, has welcomed tougher sentences for people who carry knives. Justice Secretary Ken Clarke, said 16 and 17-year-olds who threaten others with knives will be given mandatory custodial sentences. Greenhithe resident Colin Knox, whose son was stabbed to death in 2008, said: "I've been campaigning for a mandatory sentence of six months for people caught carrying knives, so this goes some way to deterring them."

➔ Jail for attack on dog

A MAN has been sent to prison for 28 days by Sevenoaks Magistrates for swinging his dog through the air and kicking it. Richard Clark of Annon Street, Tonbridge, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to his shih tzu dog. He was also banned from keeping animals for two years. Clark was seen drunk in Tonbridge in February pulling violently on the lead of the dog, called Mr Fred, then swinging it and kicking the animal.

HALLOWEEN

Ghosts and ghouls told not to make neighbours' lives a Halloween hell

POLICE will be rolling out extra patrols this weekend in a bid to deter antisocial and nuisance behaviour around Halloween.

And officers are urging young and old alike to be safe and sensible as thousands of youngsters prepare to take to the streets on Monday for the big day itself to join in the fun of trick or treat.

Posters can be downloaded from Kent Police for people to put up in their windows – showing youngsters whether they are, or are not, answering their door to trick or treaters.

In west Kent, neighbourhood officers will be visiting elderly and vulnerable residents to offer crime prevention advice and targeting trouble hotspots to prevent any bad behaviour.

Chief Inspector Jon Kirby of Kent Police said: "We want everyone to enjoy the festivities, but to respect others at the same time. I would urge trick or treaters to stay safe and be responsible while visiting houses."

"I would also ask parents to not let children call on houses or people that they do not know, only those who are expecting them."

"Some areas and estates now have residents' agree-



CREEPY: Vulnerable residents can download a Kent Police poster

ments that children from the area will only call at houses where a pre-arrangement has been made or there is a note in the window saying they are welcome to call. This can be a really effective way of residents working together positively.

"It's also important to remind parents and carers not to allow children to walk around unsupervised in the dark; they should always be

accompanied by a responsible adult."

In Maidstone, local police officers have asked shopkeepers not to sell eggs and flour to under-16s if they think the items will be used in an anti-social manner.

To download a poster to display in your window, visit the Kent Police website at www.kent.police.uk or see your neighbouring policing teams.

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EU DEBATE

Constituents come first says Euro rebel MP who still backs Cameron

By Steve Knight

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REBEL MP Adam Holloway has given his backing to the Prime Minister despite quitting his ministerial role over the controversial EU referendum issue.

The Gravesham representative was one of 81 Tories who defied the three-line whip in Monday's crucial vote, resulting in him resigning from his role as a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Holloway said he had no option but to vote in favour of a referendum after repeatedly telling his constituents he was in favour of one, but added he had confidence in David Cameron to claw powers back from Brussels regardless.

"I think people realise the Government is doing a very good job in very difficult times," he said.

"Don't be fooled into thinking David Cameron and (Foreign Secretary) William Hague



RESIGNATION: Adam Holloway MP

are little Europhiles – they're absolutely not. I'm sure that in time they will start bringing back powers as they have promised, but right now it wouldn't be sensible to do so.

"I do have some sympathy for the Prime Minister because I think he's doing brilliantly dealing with some

very difficult things. But I wasn't prepared to let down my constituents, who I love and consider as my extended family, when I've been telling them this one thing for years."

The 46-year-old former Grenadier Guard was elected in 2005, and promoted to the position of PPS – serving under Europe minister David Lidington – in October last year.

Mr Holloway admitted the chances of moving up to the front bench appeared slim as a result of his decision to quit.

"I don't think people should over-estimate what it means to be a PPS," he said. "It just means you go to meetings and help the ministers out if they have a drama. It's a very unimportant job on the scale of things."

"Resigning is definitely not helpful, but my loyalty is to my country and my constituents first. I'd love to be Secretary of State for Defence and then Prime Minister, but it's not going to happen any time soon. I don't care about moving up the ranks."

The motion debated in the House of Commons on Monday called for a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union by May,

2013. It said that the public should have three options put to them if such a vote is held – keep the status quo, leave the EU, or reform the terms of the UK's membership.

Four other Kent Conservatives – Mark Reckless (Rochester and Strood), Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford), Gordon Henderson (Sittingbourne and Sheppey) and Bob Stewart (Beckenham) – also defied the three-line whip by voting in favour of a referendum.

But despite the Prime Minister finding himself on the receiving end of the largest ever Tory rebellion on Europe, the motion was still soundly defeated by 483 votes to 111.

Mr Reckless was one of a cross-party group of MPs who secured the debate after delivering a pitch to the Backbench Business Committee.

He said during the discussion: "Fifty-seven Liberal Democrat Coalition members were given the referendum on the Alternative Vote that they wanted, yet a far larger number on the Conservative benches have not been given the referendum that we want on our country's position in the EU."

CHARITY

Building team take on New York Marathon

A TEAM from Canterbury building firm Cardy will be running the New York Marathon next month.

The four-man group of Michael Stannard, Michael Peppiatt, Chris Gremo and Adam Gremo will be tackling the run in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and hope to raise £8,000.

The 26.2 miles should take the team approximately four to five hours to complete on November 6.

Macmillan provides much-needed support to cancer sufferers and their family and friends. It costs £1,000 to pay for five Macmillan palliative care nurses for one day.

The sum could also be used to pay at least six Macmillan grants to cover the cost of a person's travel to hospital for treatment.

The charity says around 42 per cent of the population will be affected by cancer at some time in their lives.

The money raised will be used for a range of benefits whether it is just a bus fare to get to hospital, treatment for the cancer itself or a hand to hold in the last few hours of life.

The New York Marathon sponsored by the finance group ING is one of the oldest on the annual circuit.

It started in 1970 and is organised by the New York Road Runners Club and passes through five boroughs of the city. Last year, more than 45,000 runners completed the race.

The Cardy team have set up a Just Giving page for donations. They will also use it to show people their progress on the run. Visit www.justgiving.com/teams/cardyconstruction2011.

PROTEST

Green Party backs controversial St Paul's anti-capitalist protest

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

PROTESTERS camped outside St Paul's Cathedral in London have won support from the chairman of Kent Green Party in their battle against corporate greed.

For more than a fortnight activists from the Occupy London Stock Exchange group have campaigned next to the historic place of worship, which has been temporarily closed as a result of the protest.

The protesters have been accused of blocking vital revenue for the cathedral, which says it is losing up to £20,000 a day, but Kent Green Party chairman Stuart Jeffery said he backed their actions.

"I visited the protesters at the weekend to thank them for standing up for the vast majority of people whose lives are being damaged by corporate interests, the greedy one per cent and, of course, our corrupt political system," he said.

"Economic troubles are being used as an excuse to feather the beds of the rich rather than as an opportunity to reduce the gap between rich and poor."

"While the Government assault on public services increases, they continue to allow their rich friends to avoid paying £100 billion in taxes – the same amount as the budget deficit."

This week the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Richard Chartres, called on the protesters to leave, claiming the camp's presence threatens to overshadow the issues being raised.

But the activists say his comments are at odds with those coming from the cathedral,



Picture: NEIL CUMMINGS

UNHOLY ROW: The protest camp has closed St Paul's Cathedral over health and safety fears

which cite health and safety issues as the main reason for the building being closed.

Mr Jeffery, who stood for the Greens in Maidstone at last year's general election, said he did not believe the claims.

He added: "The Health and Safety Executive has not raised questions about the protest. The site was well-organised and there was good access to all areas."

"St Paul's list of trustees and sponsors reads like a who's who of the one per cent. Closing its doors was clearly done for political reasons."

"Worse still is the legal action being threatened by St Paul's. This type of bullying has no place in society."

Last week the Daily Telegraph published photographs taken with a thermal imaging camera which it claims proves most of the tents are actually empty at night, allegations denied by the protesters.

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News

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EDUCATION

11-plus pupils not 'adversely affected' despite exams fiasco, claims report

By Steve Knight

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A REPORT into a string of blunders during last month's 11-plus exams in Medway has been criticised for assuming pupils were "not adversely affected".

Medway Council received almost 90 complaints from parents after problems of insufficient staff numbers at Rainham School for Girls led to a 40-minute delay in the all-important test starting.

An investigation by the authority's portfolio holder for education Cllr Les Wicks, found there had also been a lack of refreshments and toilet facilities, and that communication with parents was poor.

However, Cllr Wicks wrote in a report that despite the "significant" problems at Rainham, the children were not adversely affected as nearly half of them passed the test.

Independent education adviser Peter Read said parents would be angered by the report, which he says the council changed from being a "thorough investigation" to a "management improvement".

He said: "It appears Cllr Wicks and Medway Council continue to assert that children were not disadvantaged as a result of the blunders.

"I shall be interested to see if the Local Government Ombudsman agrees with this astonishing assertion. One wonders if the parents with whom Cllr Wicks spoke to agreed with this. It appears



TESTING TIME: Pupils suffered a long delay and poor facilities at an 11-plus exam centre

the main differences from a thorough investigation and management improvement are that in the latter no-one is held accountable and parental views are not taken into account where they differ from the authorised version."

More than 2,000 children sat the 11-plus exam – also known as the Medway Test – on September 24 at 10 centres across the towns.

The report into the problems also found there had been a 10-minute delay at Chatham Grammar School for Boys when the test paper was initially mislaid by an invigilator.

Cllr Wicks said he was not surprised by the response from parents about the Rainham exam, and repeated his apology for the problems.

He added that he will now push for a return to

the old system where pupils take the test in their own primary schools.

"There's already enough stress around taking the Medway Test, without having to take it at centres they're not familiar with and with people they're not familiar with," he said.

"Having it at the school they go to every day has got to be a better situation for all concerned."

Cllr Wicks has been under pressure from the council's Labour group to resign as portfolio holder following a string of embarrassing education blunders, including the 11-plus debacle.

But he said: "Resigning is no solution to dealing with problems that occur, and my record over the years is pretty damn good.

"It's the kids who really matter. All the Labour group is doing is petty political point-scoring."

■ Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourmedway.co.uk.

COMMENT

“THE row about the shambolic Medway Test arrangements at two test centres, described by Councillor Les Wicks, portfolio holder for education at Medway Council, as “a mortification” – continues unabated.

The Medway 11-plus is held in a number of large centres (mainly schools) on a Saturday morning in September. There have been complaints about the operation of these tests for years, the council agreeing nine changes in procedures with the Ombudsman in 2008, after a large number of complaints; last year the council admitted fault after another large number of complaints about one centre and agreed to put in a number of improvements to monitor the process.

Sadly these failed to stop what the council has now agreed were major faults at Rainham School for Girls, although it disputing the problems at the Chatham Grammar centre.

At Rainham, the council put in just one registration desk for more than 200 children, with the result that anxious queues rapidly built up waiting long past the 20 minutes allocated, the tests starting 40 minutes late. Children were therefore on site for six-and-a-half hours.

There were only three boys' toilets and half the girls' toilets were not working so many children spent the whole of their breaks in toilet queues.

They had been told to bring a piece of fruit and a bottle of water to sustain them, which was evidently insufficient for the extended exam period. Any adult subjected to such chaos for an important exam would probably have walked out.

As it was some, of the children did not have the stamina to cope.

These were just some of the many problems at Rainham, and Medway Council has now acknowledged that no fault is attached to the school, although at least two councillors alleged the problems were down to the incompetence of the school and had apologise for this later.

I could go on about the problems at Chatham, sparked by the invigilators' failure to provide the question paper for the first exam of the day, but you can read the details at www.kentadvice.co.uk.

Medway Council's astonishing verdict was that as half the children passed the test at Rainham, none were disadvantaged – apparently they didn't consider the half who failed!

The council promised to carry out a thorough investigation of the problems and make the outcome known to all concerned. However this has turned out to be a 'management improvement report', a single-page document looking forward to stop such problems recurring; that does not address the issue of why the problems arose in the first place.

One can only hope it is more effective than the promises of 2010 which were supposed to stop similar problems.

However, parents continue to be angry, not necessarily because of the original blunders, but because of council attempts to cover them up, and its ludicrous refusal to acknowledge some children were disadvantaged by the conditions to which they were subjected. We await the ombudsman's verdict on this one, but spare a thought for those children who will never know if they would have passed, if treated fairly.

by Peter Read
Kent Independent Education Advisor

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PIRATES

Kidnapped couple hit out at way ordeal was handled

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

RETIRED couple Paul and Rachel Chandler have blasted the Foreign Office over key failings in the way it handled their traumatic 388 day kidnap ordeal at the hands of Somali pirates.

The pair, who lived in Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, before setting out on what was supposed to be a holiday of a lifetime, this week appeared before a Foreign Office select committee, probing the issue of kidnapping off the coast of Somalia.

They criticised the Foreign Office for failing to issue warnings over the dangers they faced as they set sail from the Seychelles heading towards Tanzania. Soon after setting sail they were boarded by heavily armed pirates who took over the boat. They were then taken back to shore where they were kept under armed-guard for more than a year before they were eventually released.



SAVED: The Chandlers

Mr Chandler told the committee: "I think the Foreign Office should have informed the harbourmaster, or the coast-guard at Port Victoria, both of which we contacted."

"If there was advice on the Foreign Office website which had suggested sailing south west from the Seychelles was high risk from a piracy attack, we would not have travelled."

They also fired a broadside at the way the Government liaised with their worried family

as news of their ordeal broke.

Mrs Chandler said their family was being contacted by the media for comments as news of their drama broke, but it took over four days before the Foreign Office were in touch to provide any guidance: "Essentially the Foreign Office provided tea and sympathy."

"It rubbed our family up the wrong way."

Their comments formed part of an inquiry into piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Chandlers' case was the most high profile when they were seized in October 2009. Those holding them hostage demanded a ransom - an undisclosed amount of which was paid to secure their release.

The couple, who published a book earlier this year about their ordeal, have now moved out of Kent to be with their family, but say they still consider Tunbridge Wells to be their home and hope to one day return.

■ News and sport: www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk

SIGNING

Rapper Tinie Tempah heads to Bluewater

DOUBLE-PLATINUM selling rapper Tinie Tempah will be making a special appearance at Bluewater next month to sign copies of his new book.

The star, whose hit singles includes the likes of Pass Out and Frisky, and was one of the main acts at this summer's Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood, will be at the Waterstone's book store at the shopping complex on November 3. He is promoting his book 'My Story So Far'. The signing session gets under way at 4.30pm.

CRIME

Cops' contempt after crematorium break-in

POLICE have slammed cold-hearted crooks who broke into the Tunbridge Wells crematorium.

The burglars broke into a lock-up adjacent to the crematorium, at the site on Benhall Mill Road, at some point between 4pm on October 17 and 8.30am the following morning. They pinched a petrol lawnmower and 44 litres of red diesel from a fuel tank.

DS Martin Foord of Kent Police said: "Targeting this site is particularly callous, showing utter disrespect for mourning families."

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RETAIL

Tesco set for opening of Hawkhurst store

TESCO opens its new store in Hawkhurst next month - and to mark the launch it will donate £1,000 to a local charity.

The supermarket giant has created 116 jobs with the store which was built on the former bus depot on Rye Road. It opens for business for the first time on November 7 at 8am. Store manager Dan Haffenden said: "We look forward to playing an active role in the local community."

RURAL

Farmers' plea against Chinese lanterns

NATIONAL Farmers' Union chiefs are calling on people to not release Chinese lanterns to mark Halloween or Bonfire Night this year amid growing concerns of the damage and danger they cause to the countryside. A spokesman explained: "The problem is that animals can accidentally eat their wire frames, suffering a slow and agonising death. They can also cause fires and litter the countryside."

HEALTH

Teeth whitener device had '100 times' safe level of cleaning agent

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SHOPKEEPER in Tunbridge Wells has been fined nearly £1,400 for selling a teeth whitening device containing more than 100 times the safe level of a powerful cleaning agent - so high it could have "serious consequences for a person's health".

It comes as part of a major crackdown being rolled out nationwide by Trading Standards teams on dental treatments which could harm health.

Thai Tran, of Stratford, London, pleaded guilty at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court to a total five charges, was fined £715 and had to pay £629 contribution towards costs.

All White 3000 Ltd, trading as Sonic Whitening, of which Tran was a director, also received five charges and the same penalty.

The company operated from a stand situated within Tunbridge Wells's Royal Victoria Place shopping complex. However, it shut up shop several months ago and no longer has a presence in the centre.

Among the products he sold was a tooth whitening pen.

But after a test purchase by members of Kent County Council's Trading Standards team, it was found to have dangerous levels of hydrogen peroxide - a type of bleach or cleaning agent.

Tran's pen was found by Trading Standards to have a



ALL WHITE: But there are risks with certain treatments for teeth

hydrogen peroxide concentration of 10.9 per cent - 109 times the maximum permitted concentration of 0.1 per cent - and was prosecuted under the Consumer Protection Act (1987).

Mike Hill, Kent County Council cabinet member for customer and communities, said: "Hydrogen peroxide in these products is regulated for a reason and too much can have serious consequences for a person's health."

"This prosecution sends a clear message to unscrupulous traders dealing in these products that we view this as a dangerous practice and we will press for the heaviest fine."

The prosecution is the second success this year for Trad-

ing Standards in their battle against illegal tooth whitening products.

In July, Simon Liu, a sole trader based in Oldham, was fined £660 and ordered to pay £2,375 in costs after he was found selling goods on eBay containing hydrogen peroxide 124 times the permitted level.

Teeth whitening has become an increasingly popular cosmetic treatment, with dental surgeons and an increasing number of traders now looking to offer over the counter treatments.

However, as its popularity grows, health officials are warning customers to take extra care with the treatments in order not to risk any damage to their health.

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CRIME

Appeal to help track down vicious thug who attacked man on train

COMMUTERS travelling on a train heading from London Bridge to Dartford are being urged to help solve a vicious attack which took place during the summer.

British Transport Police have issued CCTV of the man they want to speak to in connection with a "violent and unprovoked" attack (right) - and say they believe the attacker left one of his shoes behind after the incident.

The attack took place between 9.30pm and 10.20pm on Friday, July 8.

PC Stephen Petty, the investigating officer, said: "The victim, a 24-year-old man from Eltham, was waiting for his train at London Bridge when he became involved in a heated conversation with another man, who was accompanied by a woman.

"When the train arrived, both parties boarded different carriages but shortly after sitting down the victim received a sudden blow to the head before being punched in the face. He then realised his attacker was the same man from the earlier exchange."

The victim was left with cuts and bruises to his face. The suspect is described as being of slim build, with spiky hair. He was dressed in a Goth style, with dark trousers. It's believed he left the train at Lewisham, wearing only one black boot.

PC Petty continued: "This attack was violent and completely unprovoked. We've made a number of enquiries to try and identify this man, including circulating his image on police intelligence systems, but to no avail so far." Call BTP on 0800 40 50 40.



TRANSPORT

Hot rails and ice trains promise an end to winter travel misery for long-suffering commuters

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THE cold winters of recent years have caused chaos for the county's rail and road network.

Frozen points and power rails have meant trains grinding to a halt even when there has been no snow on the ground, and country roads have become impassable for many drivers.

This year, Network Rail has invested in tackling the problem.

It is installing 16,000m of heating strips along the conductor rail at 42 key locations in Kent.

The work has focused on stations, junctions and signals where problems

are most likely to occur. When trains slow down or come to a halt they need more power to set off again. If the third rail is covered in ice this can act as an insulator, preventing the train from drawing maximum power.

The mainline routes such as Ramsgate to Charing Cross, and Faversham to London Victoria via the Medway towns have had the heating strips fitted. High-speed services, where they run on overhead power, generally encounter fewer problems.

At sites where the technology has already been fitted, Network Rail says incidents of trains stopping have been reduced by 80 per cent.

Other measures are also being taken

to tackle delays and stoppages.

Twenty passenger trains are having anti-icing units fitted to their carriages. The devices spray de-icing fluid onto the rail as they make their journey meaning fluid will be put on rails throughout the day instead of special trains working around the timetable.

The company is also introducing new snow and ice trains in December. The carriages fitted with snow ploughs will be towed by diesel engines which don't rely on electrical power.

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "Conductor rail heating is just part of our strategy to deal with the severe winters. This is part of our on-



WINTER WARMERS: Network Rail says new measures should make winter travel more reliable for train passengers

going investment in our infrastructure to make it more robust and provide a better level of service."

Network Rail says that unlike in countries where snow was guaranteed to fall, in the UK a balance had to be struck when it came to investing in equipment that might not be used for many years.

Long-term, overhead lines on all routes could be a solution, but this would need much greater investment.

The spokesman was also keen to point out the latest measures would not mean there would be no problems during a severe winter when six feet of snow

could end up on the tracks.

On the roads Kent County Council says it has prepared itself for any early falls of snow. It has stockpiled more than 20,000 tonnes of salt at eight depots throughout Kent.

KCC cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said: "We have worked closely with our colleagues in Kent's districts over the summer to tailor specific plans for each area."

Farmers have also been given snow ploughs to fit to their tractors to help clear minor roads across the county.

HOUSING

17 years on, new council homes

THE first council homes built in Gravesham for 17 years were opened on Friday. Gravesham Council with Lakehouse, Circle and the Potter Raper Partnership, built the development of five units at Henry Garden.

It consists of one, two and three-bed bungalows for social rent. The scheme has been named after Henry Harden, a lance-corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in the face of the enemy.

CELEBRITY

Schoolgirl gets Clooney scoop

BEXLEYHEATH schoolgirl Lily Connolly, 16, got the scoop of a lifetime when she interviewed Hollywood star George Clooney for education charity Filmclub. The Townley Grammar School pupil asked for advice about starting film career.

Clooney said: "Get a digital camera, and go out and tell stories. You used to not be able to make films, you'd have to get a crew, but now you can make your own films. If you have a voice, then that'll stick. It's a nice time for young filmmakers."



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News

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ROAD CLOSURES

Flood protection work due to start this week

A MAJOR flood protection scheme for Tunbridge Wells enters its second phase this week - with warnings of road closures.

Southern Water will be laying a new sewer in St James Road from Beulah Road up to the junction of Sandrock Road.

This will reduce the amount of stormwater entering the sewers, lowering the risk of them overflowing and causing flooding in the area.

Construction is due to start on October 31 and will last about four weeks.

During this time, St James Road will be closed between Beulah Road and Sandrock Road and there will be no access from Beulah Road to St James Road. Access for residents will be maintained at all times. Site offices will be set up in Carlton Road.

The last phase of the work, to build several new manholes at the junction of St James Road and Sandrock Road is due to start in January 2012.

Southern Water and its contractor 4Delivery have written to residents and businesses in the area to tell them about the scheme in advance.

ENTERTAINMENT

Poor ticket sales force ex-Sky stars to cancel

FORMER Sky Sports' football presenters Richard Keys and Andy Gray have been forced to pull out of a show in Tunbridge Wells - due to poor ticket sales.

The duo, who left the broadcaster amid a sexism row sparked by a female match official, had planned to perform at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Friday as part of a nationwide tour.

But on Wednesday a number of shows were ditched amid claims ticket sales for the performances - which would feature the two recounting stories of their careers and taking questions from the audience - had failed to live up to expectations.

Speaking to this newspaper just last week, Mr Keys had promised to be upfront and honest about the controversy surrounding their Sky exit if asked by the audience.

He said: "I am sure there will be some difficult questions and I will be able to offer up some honest and genuine answers."

Ticket holders are advised to contact the theatre for details on refunds.

TRANSPORT

Railway station set for multi-million pound refurbishment scheme

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

WORK is set to get under way in December on a major overhaul of busy Sevenoaks railway station.

In a move which will be welcomed by commuters, improvements include refurbishing the platform bridge, new shelters on platforms, more motorcycle and bike spaces, renovating toilets, and a new ticket office.

Funding for the project comes from the Government's national station improvement programme and train operator Southeastern.

Mike Smith from Network Rail which manages railway infrastructure, said: "As well as providing a safe, punctual and reliable train service we must give passengers a better journey experience."

"The upgrade of Sevenoaks station is a big step forward and will make a big difference for the community and businesses who use the railway for thousands of journeys every day."

Work is due to be finished by the summer next year. The station will remain open during construction.

A Southeastern spokesman



ALL ABOARD: An artist's impression of the upgraded train station

added: "The station is the gateway to Sevenoaks for many and provides the first impression of the town. If we can provide a positive experience then this will help both the community and businesses."

"We will work together with Network Rail to ensure that we deliver this project with minimal disruption to passengers."

The national stations improvement programme is a £150m Department for Transport-backed rail industry scheme to enhance 150 medium-sized stations in England and Wales.

It follows on the heels of a major revamp for Dartford's main rail terminal. Work got under way in September on a multi-million pound overhaul

of the site which caters for three million passengers every year.

Funded jointly by the Homes and Communities Agency through Dartford Borough Council and the government's national stations improvement programme, the work includes the demolition of the existing station building and re-constructing what is described as an "eye-catching" new three-storey structure.

There will also be a new concourse and ticket office, improved passenger information and retail facilities and repairs on platforms.

Work is due to be complete by the winter of 2012.

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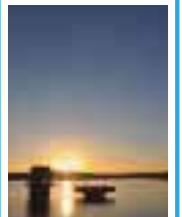
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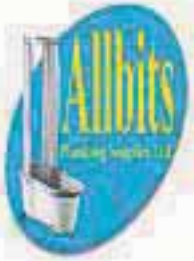
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Thursday's ceremony, hosted by chairman of Kent County Council Paulina Stockell, saw six ex-service personnel, who were helped by the Legion, for-

"Until I needed their help, I wouldn't have given it a second thought, but now I understand what they do."



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News

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ACCIDENT

Tributes to student who died in car crash

TRIBUTES have been paid to Canterbury College plumbing student Josh Hibbert who died after the car he was travelling in came off the A258.

The 17-year-old, from Walmer, had three brothers; Ben, 21, Jake, 16, and Reece, six, and an eight-year-old sister, Millie. His parents Emma and Stephen said he lit up the lives of everyone around him. His father said: "He loved all his family – his brothers and sister and his young cousins, and if anyone was feeling down, Josh was the one to lift the gloom." Josh's brother Jake called him his best friend.

OLYMPICS

Ambulance worker in Olympic torch bid

AN emergency worker who nearly died in a road crash has been nominated by his colleagues to be an Olympic torch bearer.

Gary Moore, who receives calls for the South East Coast Ambulance Service, suffered multiple chest and back injuries after his car crashed on the A20 near Maidstone in January.

He was returning from church when the accident happened in January.

Mr Moore, who lives in Canterbury, said: "If I do get a chance to bear the torch it will be for all the staff."

FARMING

Fruit farmers pip their competitors to the post to win top apple prizes

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher.co.uk

THE crown of Britain's Tastiest Apple has once again been presented to a variety grown exclusively in Kent.

At the National Fruit Show, the Reubens secured a clean-sweep of the awards, claiming first, second and third place in the contest.

First place went to Nigel Bardsley from River Farm in Staplehurst.

He was one of the pioneers bringing the Ruben's apple into Britain after tasting the apple at a trade fair in Italy.

Second place went to Rubens grower Clive Gotham from AC Gotham in Sittingbourne, while Simon Mount from Stourmouth, also one of the early growers of Rubens apples, came in third.

The competition was judged



GOOD TASTE: Kent Reubens apple growers are prize winners

by five judges, among them Adrian Barlow, chief executive of English Apples & Pears, an organisation set up to champion the industry.

The three selected Rubens apples in the Tastiest Apple competition had to rise above the 150 samples of different va-

rieties of apples from across the country entered in the produce competition.

More success for the apple went to Bob Thompson from Chainhurst, near Marden.

He won the Ruben's class award after entering the show for the first time.

Michael Joyles from Rubens marketing company, Norman Collett, said: "It is an outstanding result to claim the first three places for this Kent grown apple when the competition was so fierce."

"British apples are on a true resurgence in the UK and the quality of apples makes each grower raise their game."

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News

CRIME

Famous artist jailed for child porn crimes led a 'double life' say police

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN award-winning artist has been jailed for 15 months after admitting possessing and distributing child pornography.

Christopher Newbrook, 47, of Weston Road, Strood, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court to plead guilty to 10 counts of possessing indecent images of children, two counts of distributing indecent photographs, and three counts of obscene publications.

The judge sentenced him 15 months behind bars.

In 2003 Newbrook won an important open art competition, the Dover Prize, in Darlington, which influenced his decision to become a full-time artist. After exhibiting in Newcastle and London, he relocated to Kent and had a studio in Rochester.

However, the court heard



PORN: Christopher Newbrook

how after tracking him online, officers raided Newbrook's home on August 19. They seized computer equipment and memory sticks on which more than 1,000 images and movies of child pornography were stored.

These images and films ranged from levels one to five in seriousness. Police also

found documents, written to and from Newbrook discussing in detail the abuse of children.

Det Con Heather Spencer from Kent Police's public protection unit, said: "Newbrook seemed to live a double life. On one hand a respected artist and on the other he engaged in the viewing and distributing of these vile images of child pornography to other like-minded individuals."

"He clearly had no concept of the possibility he was encouraging child abuse by doing so. We will continue to try and identify those to whom he distributed images and ensure they too are investigated and brought to justice."

Newbrook was also made subject to a sex offenders prevention order for five years and was ordered to sign the sex offenders' register for the same period.

■ For news and sport see www.yourmedway.co.uk.



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News

Business Week Live

Success of Business Week Live shows Kent firms ready for growth

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSPEOPLE and entrepreneurs flocked to the second annual Business Week Live event, held at Dover's Exhibition Centre on Wednesday.

Main speaker Labour's shadow minister for further education, skills and regional growth, Gordon Marsden MP, focused on his party's policies on how to boost the sluggish economy, while also praising the bravery of organiser Archant KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, for staging the event in the current climate.

The day started with a welcome address from former Gravesham Tory MP Jacques Arnold who outlined the Government's plans on credit easing, which will give businesses an alternative source of funding to borrowing from banks.

Mr Arnold also spoke of his time in Government in the 1990s when he had outlined his own fears over the viability of the euro.

"It could not be a more appropriate time for an event such as this," Mr Arnold said.

"The economy is in a first-rate mess and we are in good company as we look across the world. We have borrowed like there is no tomorrow, using money that doesn't really exist. This Government inherited a debt situation which is as bad as Greece's."

But he emphasised the commitment of Chancellor George Osborne to tackling the problem, and the issue of credit easing was also addressed in his speech.

"Now we have a Government which is standing firm on eliminating that debt."

"George Osborne has made it clear just chucking money into the market is no good. So credit

easing has been introduced. It is a way of getting credit through to small and medium businesses on a long-term basis through the issuing of bonds.

"This is aimed at providing finances on a long-term fixed basis. The Government has instructed the Treasury to draw up the scheme which will appear in the Autumn Statement."

"This is very much a matter we should be looking out for."

A particular focus of the show was the possibilities of Kent company's taking a slice of the European market.

A delegation of 60 representatives from France were among those who attended, while Kent County Council's European policy and projects officer Steve Samson outlined the advantages the county has export trade.

Other speakers included Olga D'Silva of the Kent Institute of Directors who discussed interna-



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tional trading with China, and Ashford-based MJ Allen who offered advice on how to win international contracts.

Simon Nicholson, regional business director of Barclays Bank offered advice on how to obtain a business loan, emphasising his company was still lending money.

Peter Hobbs of the Channel Chamber of Commerce offered advice on how businesses can work in partnership, while Manston airport's Charles Buchanan looked at the opportunities offered by aviation.

The show included a series of speed networking sessions where more than 100 businesspeople sat opposite each for just 90 seconds during which they each made a presentation to the person facing them, before moving down the row and repeating the process.

A wall for the display of business cards also proved a success, with attendees either putting details of their own services, or requesting assistance in a particular field.

Ian Grout of Staplehurst security company Poyntell said: "A show like this give us the opportunity to display our expertise and make contacts to work with other enterprises."

Among the young people visiting were entrepreneurs who had set up

with the backing of the Kent Foundation which offers mentoring and practical help. "Young people come to us and we match their enthusiasm with our expertise," said director Paul Barron.

Chloe Ainsley, 24, from Medway has established herself as a graphic artist with her firm Fusion Design.

"Events like this give me an opportunity to get experience of the wider business world," she said. "Things like speed networking are a great way to make new contacts."

Former Kent police officer Dave West founded Folkestone-based Gurkha Services Link which offers former servicemen, mainly Gurkhas, as security personnel and cleaners.

He said: "I'm new to events like this and I have been pleasantly surprised that there haven't been too many occasions where our stand has not had a visitor. Lots of people have come up to us and said 'let's sit down and talk', so that has got to be positive for the future."

Sallie Payne, project manager of the event, said: "What the show achieved is to demonstrate that even in today's challenging economic climate there is a feeling, in Kent at least, that businesses can still prosper and succeed."

"What we saw was our exhibitors and attendees actually doing business, making connections and networking effectively and efficiently."

"The speed networking sessions were among the most popular features, as was the business exchange wall where people left their cards."

BULLISH:
Jacques Arnold

6699

Even in today's climate there is a feeling in Kent that businesses can prosper and succeed

SALLIE PAYNE, ORGANISER



BUSINESS WEEK

LIVE: Clockwise from top left, the popular speed networking event; Duncan Murray from Directline Structures; Kent Foundation young entrepreneurs; and the networking centre



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News

ENERGY

Far on the horizon, the world's largest wind



MAN WITH A PLAN: Richard Rigg is the London Array project director

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

STANDING on the coastline of north Kent and looking out across the cold waters of the Thames Estuary and beyond it, the North Sea, only the most eagle-eyed would be able to spot the tell-tale signs of something big occurring on the horizon.

Take a boat, however, and whizz across the waves for an hour at a steady 25 knots and what you couldn't spot from the shore loom like giants from the deep.

Because stretching across the sea work is well under way on the world's largest wind farm.

Bobbing on the surface where soon 175 huge wind turbines will stretch out, two sub-stations, like vast oil rigs, stand proud.

It is here the estimated 630 megawatts of power – enough to provide for two-thirds of the homes in the county – will be channelled back down pipes on the seabed to Graveney, between Whitstable and Faversham, to be distributed.

Planning began for the wind farm in 2003.

The Crown Estate, which owns the seabed

around the coast of the UK, has gradually released sites to prospective bidders. Early projects like the Kentish Flats turbines off Whitstable were small with around 30 turbines – loved and loathed by residents in equal measure.

As sites for wind farms go further out to sea they will generally be bigger in size.

The London Array is made up of a consortium of the Danish company Dong Energy, E.ON, and Masdar, a renewable energy company based in Abu Dhabi.

Each turbine will be 120 metres high to the top of the blade, almost as tall as the London Eye, and will generate 3.6 megawatts.

Sat in a boat alongside me as we look at where the turbines will soon be erected is Richard Rigg.

As project director for the London Array he is convinced of its necessity to contribute to the nation's power supply. He explains: "One of the reasons wind farms are being built off the east coast is because they can be connected to the National Grid relatively easily."

Despite this, electricity generated by the London Array will travel along 50 kilometres of cable before it comes ashore at Cleve Hill in Graveney, near Whitstable, where a large substation had to be built on the marshland.

The plant was originally rejected by Swale Borough Council but it was passed on appeal. Since then the company behind London Array has worked hard to placate residents.

Mr Rigg said: "I think people there are beginning to think it's not quite the blot on the landscape they thought it was going to be. The critical thing is we did not disrupt locals any more than we had to."

But despite the obvious power benefits, offshore wind farms do not come cheap. The London Array amounts to more than £2 billion of investment.

At present, the foundations for each turbine are being hammered into the seabed ready for the turbines to be erected before the end of the year.

Mr Rigg said: "Offshore wind farms are more expensive to construct and maintain than wind farms on land but you usually get more wind. It is a balance between cost and revenue."

"You have to take these things into consideration before you build any wind farm. Onshore can prove costly if you are a long way from where the power is needed and the wind is generally not as strong or smooth. You also get more objections to turbines being situated on land."

So with all this foreign investment how will the London Array benefit the local economy? Some locals have been involved in the construction phase but around 90 jobs will be created once the farm is up and running and needs to be maintained.

The consortium say more than 90 companies have supplied the operation and around £10 million has been spent on the local economy so far.

So it looks like wind farms will place an increasing role in the future of the Thames Estuary and Kent's economy.

There are plans to extend two existing sites and the London Array has a second phase in the pipeline provided it does not affect the internationally important wintering grounds of the red-throated diver seabird.

Technology is also changing. Turbines will inevitably get bigger and more reliable, although costs are not helped by the lack of competition in the turbine manufacturer sector.

At least the technology is helping to reduce the build up of greenhouse gasses. The EU wants 15 per cent of its electricity to be generated by renewable sources by 2020.

Mr Rigg said: "I don't think we can expect to generate more than about 20 per cent of our energy from renewable sources. Wind power is not a panacea but there will be a good nucleus of off-shore wind farm expertise here in Kent."

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Pictures: ED HILL

ALL AT SEA: Work on one of the substations that will take power from the turbines for transfer to shore

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BONFIRE NIGHT

Making sure your fireworks night celebration goes with a big bang

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BONFIRE night brings friends and families together to remember the history of Guy Fawkes and celebrate the beginning of the festive season.

With extravagant fireworks displays and roaring bonfires taking place at many of Kent's popular attractions, November 5 is the perfect time to enjoy a family evening out.

■ Bonfire and Firework Event at Quex Park (Saturday, November 5)

A charity evening presenting a 20-minute dazzling fireworks display, a 30ft high bonfire and entertainment including live music, food and drink tents, and fairground rides. The event will be supporting a number of charities, including Demelza House, AZAR, and Cancer Research UK. Local bands will be performing.

Gates open at 4pm and the displays start at 6.30pm beginning with the bonfire, and fireworks will be set off from 7.30pm. Save £2 by booking in advance, gate prices are £7 for adults and £6 for children. See www.quexpark.co.uk.

■ Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular, Kent Life (Saturday, November 5)

A magnificent fireworks display to musical classics, and a bonfire lit by fire breathers. Kent Life will host this family day out with a variety of entertainment. There will also be fun children's fairground rides, glow stick stalls, and music and fire performers.

Make savings when booking tickets in advance by 4pm on Friday, November 4, with adult tickets at £8.50, concessions £7.50, children (up to 15 years) £6.50 and under 4s go in for free. See www.kentlife.org.uk.

■ Fireworks Spectacular at the Hop Farm (Saturday and Sunday, November 5-6)

The Hop Farm's fireworks celebrations will feature two displays. On Saturday from 6pm, the child-friendly display will be set to Disney music with fewer loud bangs, and the exhilarating 'disco inferno' family display will take place at 9pm.

On Sunday there will be a bonfire at 5pm, followed by fireworks set to songs from the musicals. Visitors can bring a Guy Fawkes to add to the the bonfire. See www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

■ Dunorlan Park Fireworks, Tunbridge

Wells (Saturday, November 5)

A traditional annual event since 1957 that sees thousands flock to the picturesque gardens to watch the display, organised by the Royal Tunbridge Wells Round Table.

Gates open at 5.30pm with the event getting under way at 7pm. Supported by the borough council, ticket prices on the gate will be £7 for adults and £4 for children (under 5s free). Adults prices are reduced by £2 and children by £1 if booked in advance. Tickets are on sale in the town's Calverly Precinct on October 29 and November 5. See <http://rtwrt.org>



■ Leeds Castle Fireworks – Out of this World! (Saturday and Sunday November 5-6)

Watch this fireworks extravaganza against the historical backdrop of Leeds Castle. The display will be performed alongside space-themed music and tunes from music and TV.

Gates open from 2pm when visitors will be treated to an open-air cinema screening of a space-themed film, followed by a jazz performance by Adam Chandler. Activities will take place on the castle grounds throughout the day. The fireworks display will be showcased from 5.30pm.

Entry is £18 for adults, £10 for children under 16, and under 4s go for free if reserved. Group rates are also available. All tickets must be purchased in advance at www.leeds-castle.com/events or call the box office on 01622 880008.

■ Charity Fireworks Night at Mount Ephraim (Saturday, November 5)

An exciting fireworks in the grounds of Mount

Ephraim House and Gardens. The charitable event will include entertainment, a licensed bar and food stalls, and is organised by the Dawes Community Association. Gates open at 6pm for a 7.30pm performance and tickets can be bought online at www.dawesca.co.uk. See www.mountephraimgardens.co.uk.

■ Firework Festival at the Riverside Leisure Area, Gravesend, (Friday, November 4)

Gravesend riverside will light up for firework night with music and pyrotechnics for a free family show run by Gravesend Council.

There will entertainment from 6pm with Stan Lee King's Boogie Box and local band Taxi Run on the music stage from 6.45pm.

The firework display will be launched on the river at 8pm with a contemporary music theme.

■ Bonfire and Fireworks Night, The Great Lines Heritage Park, Gillingham (Saturday, November 5)

Medway Council's free bonfire and fireworks event is a family friendly celebration. The event has a variety of stalls for visitors to enjoy, and traditional food and drink. Gates open at 7pm for a 7.30pm showtime.

Medway Mayor Cllr Ted Baker will light the giant bonfire, and the event will finish at 8pm.

Visitors are asked not to bring fireworks, spar-



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OPINION

UK wants less Europe not more

Kent Conservative MEP Richard Ashworth says the EU needs to realign, and that will offer our country a chance to loosen its ties to Europe

THE euro is primarily a political project; rich on vision and ambition but poor on regulation and discipline.

The experience of Greece and others has shown that, in a single currency, the actions of one member state impact not only the 17 eurozone nations but all 27 EU member states.

Monetary union means inter-dependence among eurozone members and, as we now know, that won't work without clear leadership and strong regulation.

To offer that leadership and to administer those rules, there can only be one finance minister, not 17. There must be one central banking authority which must have powers to sanction members who break the rules.

It must set a common interest rate, a central reserve fund and eurozone members will have to accept harmonised tax rates and social legislation.

In other words, the eurozone members must surrender fiscal sovereignty to the central bank. That would not be lawful under the current treaties and, therefore, to create those powers the EU would need a new revising treaty.

A treaty change, one of the three questions posed in the EU referendum vote and floated by EU leaders, offers the United Kingdom the best opportunity in a generation to redefine our relationship with the European Union.

The United Kingdom is not in the euro and nor do we wish to be. However, because our economies are interlinked through the single market for goods and services, due to Europe's geographical proximity and relative economic affluence, we do have a vested interest in the success of the euro.

David Cameron has, wisely, indicated that we would be receptive to changes but that our

support would come at a price!

For the UK economy to recover and restore jobs and growth we urgently need to increase our competitiveness.

European legislation such as the working time directive and the charter of fundamental rights are very damaging to the UK's prospects.

Furthermore the EU's proposals for a financial transaction tax would hit the City of London harder than all the rest of Europe put together.

These are burdens that we cannot afford.

If the euro countries wish to damage their competitiveness then that is their choice. We must negotiate to opt out of the most damaging regulations and to restore those powers to the UK. The UK wants less Europe not more, and we are not alone. Sweden and other non-euro countries echo that call.

However, as with many decisions of government, timing



6699

We must negotiate an opt out to restore powers to the UK

is everything. The UK cannot 'pull up the drawbridge' in the face of this crisis and threaten our economy by withdrawing from the single market, just as we cannot be silent while our main trading partners devalue the whole of Europe by bailing out their eurozone partners.

The Government must play a full and active part in all future negotiations over the future of the EU; even (or especially) when President Sarkozy continues to voice his displeasure at our position.

Europe needs to realign; inevitably that will mean some eurozone nations integrating further, while for some other nations, specifically the UK and non-euro countries, a treaty change offers an excellent opportunity to agree to a looser relationship.

For that, David Cameron has my full encouragement and support.

KOS COMMENT

X Factor defeated by charity's reality check

HE MAY be one of the world's biggest and most successful media moguls, but it'll take more than Simon Cowell to scare off the real Rhythmix.

With support of this newspaper and huge public pressure, the charity fought the big guns – and won.

Appealing to so-called Mr Nasty's better side, charity bosses gave him a reality check that away from the glitz and glamour of the X-Factor was a real cause, more important to the community than a television show.

In a world where money and power usually triumph, it's good to finally see a bit of common sense prevail.

Shoulder to shoulder with the Poppy Appeal

THIS week saw the launch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal 2011 with the motto 'shoulder to shoulder'.

So spare a thought for the brave service men and women who risk their lives every day and stand proud alongside them by showing your support and pinning on a poppy.

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**October
sunrise in
Gravesend**
by Adam
Tingley

IMAGES OF KENT

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Making a stand Prejudice not for their voters acceptable

HOW can anyone call Britain a democratic country when the vast majority of people in this country want a referendum on Europe yet are refused it by the political elite?

Once again the wishes of the people are being ignored by all three major political parties, something they do on a regular basis.

There were a few who stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Britain – they were mainly Conservatives, but there were also Labour and Lib Dems – and these were the real patriots.

I am pleased to say we have an MP in Gordon Henderson who stood by what he believed in and voted for a referendum.

Well done, a real man of the people.

Let's start a campaign, Cameron must go.

Once more, we see the prejudices of the governing class overriding the democratic feelings of the people.

**Martin Clarke,
Sittingbourne**

I AM flattered Stephen Johnson credits my influence over Coalition government policies so highly (Letters, October 23).

However, I found his comments on the hustings meetings held for Sevenoaks at the last year's general election curious.

I have nothing against any form of personal advice in principle, but my research on a particular Christian counselling service based in west Kent disturbed me, not least when I found that one of their leading patrons was also someone who had explicitly called on gay people both to repent and be changed, which can hardly said to be impartial, and was also highly critical of Muslims in the UK.

Selective readings of the Bible may well endorse all sorts of practices and beliefs that are fortunately no longer common in 2011.

Oppression of minorities should likewise be no part of any Christian teachings or

Coalition policy in 2011, and I am 100 per cent with both David Cameron and Nick Clegg on this. That sort of prejudice is also totally unacceptable, to quote Mr Johnson's own words.

**Dr Alan Bullion,
Tunbridge Wells**

Forty years of higher taxes

IN your Money Clinic in last week's newspaper, Tony Hetherington mentions the top tax rate of about 98 per cent on investment income. This applied for the best part of 40 years.

Following Harold Wilson's almost 15 per cent devaluation and his assertion that he was not devaluing "the pound in your pocket", Roy Jenkins's Budget of March 19, 1968, introduced the Investment Income Surcharge which increased the top rate of tax to 137.5 per cent.

As the budget was three weeks before the end of the tax year, high rate taxpayers had a window of opportunity to return their dividends and income to avoid what was in

effect a capital tax.

It was not until Mrs Thatcher's ascendancy in 1979 that the top rate of tax was gradually reduced to more modest levels.

**Michael Stainer,
Folkestone**

Proportioning political gains

JUST a few days before the recent by-election in Meopham the Ukip candidate Geoffrey Clark was proudly proclaiming that Gravesham council were about to get their first Ukip councillor.

Oops, what went wrong there Geoffrey?

I am sure Mr Clark will learn some lessons from this and the first one is never count your chickens before they are hatched.

Lesson two; understand the electorate. While the smaller parties, English Democrats, New England Party, Ukip, etc, can constantly put up the best candidate with the best policies, we will never make a major breakthrough under the present system of politics in this country.

Firstly the electorate expect their politicians to be like the weather, unpredictable and unreliable, it just gives them something to talk about.

There are areas in this country that if you put a monkey up with a Vote Conservative or Vote Labour badge on it then we know it would get elected.

I always take the view it is not the ones that vote that determine the results of elections, but those that do not, and the residents of Meopham have clearly demonstrated this.

When 62 per cent of the electorate in this by-election did not vote they determined the result by leaving it to the die-hard Tories who will vote.

The other interesting thing about our so-called democratic system is that invariably those that do get elected have more votes against them than for them; and this was the case in this election; 648 for John Cubitt with a total of 722 against.

It should be mandatory to go to vote, but there should be an area on the bottom of each ballot paper where you can put a cross to say 'none of the candidates'.

We should have elections held over two days, Saturday and Sunday, certainly for general elections, county and district elections.

We also need a proportional style of voting to bring this country into the modern world and it is interesting the only success Ukip has achieved has only been under the European system of proportional representation, so one could say it does work.

There are many dedicated, highly principled individuals in the smaller parties, but until we collectively pursue policies of proportional voting plus mandatory voting, this nation will continue its slide into oblivion.

**Mike Tibby, chairman
Dartford English Democrats**

Sporting the right mentality

WHAT a truly inspirational day I had at Ursuline College in Westgate-on-Sea, meeting the young people and teachers involved in Sky Sports Living for Sport.

My heartfelt thanks go to the staff and pupils who welcomed me so warmly and shared their thoughts, experiences, aspirations and learnings from this initiative.

The pupils were a credit to school and full of enthusiasm, commitment and energy.

My role as an athlete mentor for Sky Sports Living for Sport, which is delivered in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, is to inspire pupils, by drawing upon my own experiences of sport, the obstacles I overcame and the life lessons I have gleaned through sport. As is often the case on these visits, I came away feeling incredibly inspired myself.

During my time with the pupils at school I encouraged them to think about the skills we learn through doing sport and how these can be applied to improve their lives.

After all, sport is not just about fitness – it helps people think, helps people listen, helps people to speak up, and helps people work together.

Sport is not only about talent or winning; it brings together all the life skills needed to succeed. Initiatives like Sky Sports Living for Sport are about teaching the young to strive to be the best they can.

**Tom Davis,
former Commonwealth and
British judo champion**

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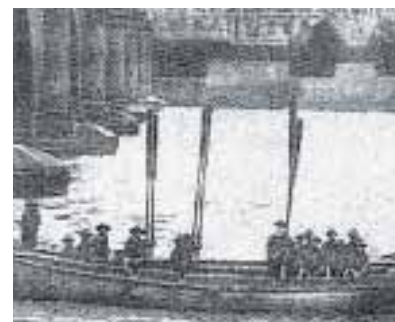
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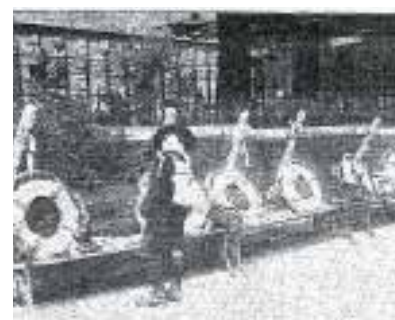
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KENT REMEMBERED



NATIONAL TRAGEDY: A postcard commemorating the rescuers, and left, the Scouts on their boat



MOURNING: Thousands of people lined the streets during the funeral of the eight Scouts who drowned

Scout death tragedy time almost forgot

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

NEXT year a special ceremony is going to be held in London to mark a tragedy that happened off the north Kent coast.

On August 4, 1912, eight Scouts were drowned at Leysdown when their open boat capsized.

The Second Walworth Scout troop consisting of five adults and 24 Scouts aged 11-14 had made the journey from Waterloo Bridge down the Thames to the Isle of Sheppey.

Just as they were about to reach their campsite for the night a sudden squall blew up and the crew of the 32ft boat were thrown into the water.

The local lifeboat was launched and most of the boys were rescued, but despite valiant efforts from their rescuers and other Scoutmasters on shore, eight boys drowned along with a young sailor from the training ship *Arethusa*.

At the time the event was seen as a national tragedy. Winston Churchill, who was the First Lord of the Admiralty, arranged for the young boys' bodies to be taken by naval destroyer back to London.

Their coffins were transported from Rotherhithe to a church in Walworth where they laid in state. Around 100,000 people are thought to have

paid their respects to the victims, and commemorative issues of national newspapers were published.

One million people lined the streets of south London as the Scouts' coffins, draped in Union flags and flowers, were taken to Nunhead Cemetery where they remain to this day.

Now the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery and Southwark Council, along with surviving relatives, want to mark the 100th anniversary of the tragedy.

A national memorial designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and paid for by penny donations from the public was built in the cemetery to mark the graves of the young boys.

But the lifelike bronze statue of a Scout on the memorial was stolen in 1969 and a new memorial of an open marble book took its place in 1992.

There is also a memorial to the tragedy at Leysdown. A large boulder of Kent ragstone engraved with the names of the young boys sits in a nearby cemetery.

In these days of health and safety legislation it seems strange that such a risky trip would have been taken place, but the Scout movement, which had been founded in 1907, wanted to promote fresh air and outdoor activities, particularly for children living in

the polluted slums of London.

This was the second year the trip had taken place, and according to reports at the time the crew were experienced.

The story has many poignant elements – Scoutmaster Sydney Marsh, who had been in charge of the vessel, repeatedly dove into the water to help save boys, nearly drowning himself in the process.

However, he failed to save his own son Harry Gwynn who he had adopted only a few weeks before.

The story of the tragedy had almost been lost in time until a man who had been at the funeral mentioned it to a guide at Nunhead Cemetery.

Rex Batton, from the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, said: "He told me about the story since then we have published a book about what happened."

"We hope to have a service here in the chapel and at the graveside where the boys are buried. It was one of the biggest funerals ever seen in south London."

"The memorial in Leysdown is in a cemetery at the top of a hill overlooking where the accident happened. It would be wonderful if we could arrange some sort of ceremony there next year as well."

■ For more news and sport see www.yoursware.co.uk.

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Business Week

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NI 'holiday' must be extended into Kent to kick-start growth

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway is calling for the Employers' National Insurance Contributions incentive, available to new businesses in the north and west of the UK, to be extended to businesses in local deprived areas.

The criterion for the incentive is an area with a high proportion of employment in the public sector, and this applies to Kent where many districts have levels of public sector employment significantly above national averages.

Commenting on a statement by shadow chancellor Ed Balls, Roger House, chairman for the FSB in Kent and Medway, said: "We are pleased the shadow chancellor has realised that introducing a National Insurance Contributions holiday to existing small businesses and a targeted VAT cut to five per cent are both realistic and affordable.

"It is now essential the Government acts in the national interest and adopts these measures to kick-start growth in Kent and Medway."

The FSB has written to all Kent MPs asking them to join a call for the Chancellor Georgew Osborne and the Treasury to extend the scheme to new and existing Kent businesses to increase

employment opportunities in the county.

A spokesman said: "The qualifying criterion for the holiday is those regional labour markets most reliant on public sector employment and Kent scores above the national average.

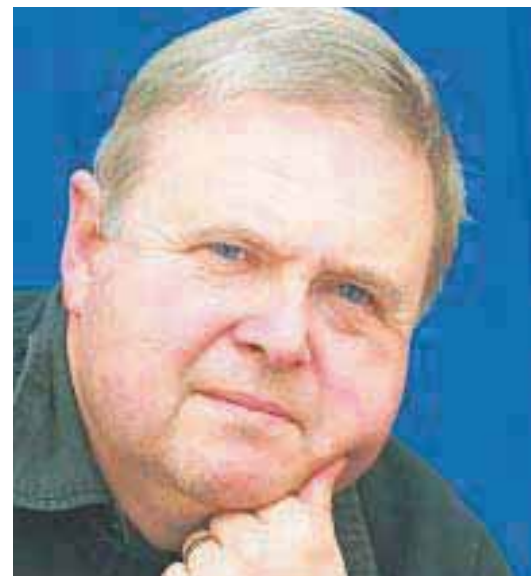
"Dover, Maidstone, Medway, Shepway and Thanet all have above 30 per cent of local employment in the public sector and Canterbury exceeds 40 per cent.

"Up to July 8, 2011, only 5,137 successful applications for the holiday had been made from the target of 300,000.

"Funding had been allocated to meet the cost of this scheme so adequate resource should be available to extend the scheme to Kent businesses recruiting new staff.

"Should a new employee be hired at an average salary of £25,000 pa, the Treasury would continue to receive more than £5,000 in PAYE and employees NIC. It's a win-win – it's a no brainer.

"Letters received from David Gauke MP at HM Treasury state that the problem with an extension of the employers' NIC holiday to deprived areas of Kent and Medway is the scheme would not be able to distinguish between those businesses in genuine need of support and those businesses that have ample means to employ new workers.



SPEAKING OUT: Roger House says it is essential government acts in the national interest and adopts these measures for deprived areas of the county

"The FSB do not understand how this distinction is resolved in the north and west of the UK where new businesses may claim the employers' NIC holiday, and why the same distinction is not possible in Kent.

"It is totally illogical to provide incentives to affluent parts of the UK while denying access to the same benefit to deprived areas of Kent that fulfil the qualifying criteria.

"On September 15, the FSB wrote again to all the MPs in Kent to urge them to take this issue up with the Chancellor and to persuade him to reconsider his position, to extend the scheme to Kent and to provide an incentive for local small firms to take on new employees and to help pull the country out of recession."

TRANSPORT

Concern van emission change to hit business

THE Federation of Small Businesses is concerned that with just months to go until small commercial vans are included within London's Low Emission Zone many small businesses are still not aware of the changes that will have a damaging effect on sustainability.

Small firms that have vans not compliant with Euro Emission standards face daily charges of up to £200 for entering the zone.

The FSB believes that not enough support is being provided to help small business owners to become compliant – particularly those owners of specialist vehicles – and is calling for small businesses to be given extra leniency on a "case by case basis" from penalties when changes to the LEZ come in effect on the January 3, 2012.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway said: "Transport for London have released details of discounts available via various commercial van providers, however, the feedback we are getting is that many are not suitable for all commercial use. The LEZ will be another financial headache for small firms struggling with access to finance – so we encourage car manufacturers to offer competitive discounts on new vehicles and retrofitting of old vehicles to ensure the sustainability of many small businesses."

TOURISM

European study trip learns how art and culture aids regeneration

TOURISM professionals from both sides of the Channel have discovered how art and culture are playing a crucial role in the regeneration of Kent's coastal destinations.

A 40-strong party of delegates from Kent, France and Belgium met at the Quarterhouse in Folkestone for a Creative Kent Coast study trip. It was themed around the Creative Kent Coastal Week and demonstrated how culture can play an increasingly important role in urban regeneration with the development of major capital projects, and how arts and creative activity can support community-led renewal.

They learned about major cultural projects designed to promote coastal destinations in the area, including Folkestone's Creative

Quarter, where they viewed art left from the Folkestone Triennial 2011.

In the afternoon they travelled to Margate for a visit to the Turner Contemporary and to discuss proposals to create the world's first amusement park of thrilling historic rides at the Dreamland site.

The study trip is part of the CAST (Coastal Actions for Sustainable Tourism) Interreg Programme, which is jointly delivered by Visit Kent, Westtoer in West Flanders, and the ADRT Pas-de-Calais Tourisme.

Cheryl Parker, tourism development manager at Visit Kent, said: "We are delighted to have had the opportunity to show the excellent work being done and hope they left with some fresh ideas to benefit."

LEGAL

Law firm celebrating 1,000th Lexcel status

FRAZER Bradshaw, based in Bromley, has become the 1,000th law practice to be awarded Lexcel, the Law Society's law management accreditation.

The firm of solicitors specialising in criminal law passed the assessment required to obtain the Lexcel status, which provides professionals in law firms and in-house legal departments with a flexible, supportive management framework to help manage risk effectively, reduce costs and promote profitability.

Lexcel is only awarded to practices that meet high management and client care standards.

All Lexcel accredited practices must undergo an annual application and independent assessment process to ensure they meet the required management standards.

Firm principal Frazer Bradshaw said: "We are proud to be a Lexcel firm and it is a bonus to be the country's 1,000th Lexcel accredited legal practice. Anyone coming through our doors will know they are in safe hands, that their case will be handled to the highest level of professionalism. Lexcel will help Frazer Bradshaw stand out in what could soon be a legal services market that sees more providers emerging from outside the solicitors' profession."

Business Week

For more business news go to businessforkent.co.uk

FOOD

Kent Crisps bag place on shelves at Waitrose

WAITROSE is now stocking all four flavours of premium, hand-cooked Kent Crisps in its new Canterbury store and other outlets in Ramsgate, Ashford, Dartford and Bluewater.

Launched in March this year, Kent Crisps which reflect the flavours and landscapes of the Garden of England, have sold more than 250,000 packets in a short time, ahead of expected demand.

They are made from potatoes grown at the Quex Park Estate, Birchington, using sustainable methods.

The Ashmore Cheese and Onion flavour has already won a great taste award.

Other flavours are Sea Salt and Biddenden Cider Vinegar, Oyster and Vinegar, a first for the crisps industry, and Sea Salt.

All contain only natural flavours and colours and are available in 40g bags.

BBC's Master Chef judge John Torode recently described the crisps as "delicious".

Quex Foods managing director Anthony Curwen said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support we've received for Kent Crisps, it's been beyond our expectations."

"For Waitrose to stock our crisps is a thoroughly wonderful endorsement of the quality and provenance we strive to achieve."

Tracey Marshall, Waitrose's product manager, added: "Kent Crisps are a quality local food, traditionally made by producers respected by their communities."

"All this makes them perfect for our shoppers and we are delighted to stock them."



GROWTH SPURT: East Malling Concept Pear Orchard has doubled its yield to 22 tonnes, passing the national average

Idea to safeguard UK food production is bearing fruit at concept pear orchard

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A BOOST for Kent's fruit industry has been announced as the East Malling Concept Pear Orchard has doubled its yield to 22 tonnes in only its second harvest – easily surpassing the national average.

Cultivation of the fruit is part of a drive to increase the amount of UK produce on offer to consumers and cut reliance on imports

The project was developed with supermarket giant Sainsbury's by Chingford Fruit Ltd in partnership with East Malling Ltd.

It has exceeded the national production aver-

age in just two-and-a-half years, after being planted in March, 2009, and is part of a drive to increase the amount of UK produce which is on offer to consumers and cut reliance on imports.

Adrian Padfield, chief executive of East Malling Ltd, said: "To exceed the industry's typical levels of production in only its second harvest is fantastic news."

"We are confident this performance will be replicated on the Sweet Sensation pear orchard of nearly 19,000 trees planted intensively in a seven-hectare orchard established earlier in the year."

After harvesting the pears were put into cold-store before being packed and despatched to

Sainsbury's stores across the UK.

Chris Atkinson, head of science at East Malling Research, said: "Last winter's chill helped the development of the fruit bud and the above-average spring temperatures produced a good fruit set."

"With the orchard using drip irrigation and fertigation delivering water and nutrients to the trees, the orchard has been able to handle the year's erratic weather particularly the early dry conditions, and still produce very high-quality fruit."

"Persuading and demonstrating how growers can produce fruit on this intensive scale is vital to achieve 'more from less' and help to underpin our future UK food security."

RAILWAY

High-speed trains finally get high-speed internet

EUROSTAR has awarded Nomad Digital Ltd, the connectivity provider to the rail industry, the contracts to supply on-board wi-fi and state-of-the-art entertainment for its existing fleet of high-speed trains.

Over the next three years, Eurostar is making a £700 million investment in its services. This includes the complete overhaul and refurbishment of the existing fleet as well as the purchase of 10 new e320 train sets from Siemens.

When the Eurostar refurbished trains and the new e320 trains come into operation in 2013 and 2014, customers will have access to high-speed broadband internet on board.

Passengers will also be able to view and download pre-loaded entertainment to their own devices via a secure wireless LAN.

Commercial director of the train operator Nick Mercer said: "We are very pleased to be working with Nomad and are confident that their wi-fi and infotainment solutions will significantly enhance the on-board travel experience and deliver our customers a high quality broadband service."

"Access to a high-speed internet and quality infotainment is increasingly important to passengers and will ensure that whether they are travelling for business or leisure, they get the most out of their journey."

"In a world of on-rail competition, providing the optimal digital experience will be key to our success."

Increased profit and growth see advisory firm fly up rankings

CROWE Clark Whitehill, the audit, tax and business advisory firm with offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, has leapt 10 places to ninth in the Hemscott's Adviser Rankings, an industry league table.

It has also been ranked 15th by Accountancy Age – up two places – with an 11 per cent increase in turnover from £47 million to £52.1m in 2011.

These improved positions come on the back of six months of solid growth for the firm, both in

terms of new business wins and recruitment.

Partner Keith Newman said: "It has clearly been a good year for us and we are delighted this has been reflected in the industry rankings."

"Our team continues to go from strength to strength, which enables us to provide an exceptional service to our clients."

Andrew Pianca, chief executive, said: "Our strong growth and improved rankings are a direct

result of an increased focus on the development of our corporate offering – indeed, in the AIM market, this year alone, we have won more new clients than the next 11 ranked audit firms together."

"In addition, we have consolidated our position in several markets including: the alternative energy; mining, and oil and gas; food production; and other financial service markets, and we will continue to build our service to these companies on a global basis."



PLEASED: Partner Keith Newman

GROWTH AND ENTERPRISE



YOUR HOST: Paul Price from Kent Science Park

Chamber's taking a scientific approach to networking event

THE Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce is hosting a business networking evening on Thursday, November 3, from 5-7pm at Kent Science Park, near Sittingbourne.

The event is open to both members and non-members of the Chamber of Commerce and will start with an introduction about what Kent Invicta can do for local businesses followed by informal networking and refreshments.

Patrick Williams, membership development manager said: "The Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce is deeply committed to improving business links between companies in Kent and building and supporting an environment that is conducive to business growth and enterprise.

"We hold more than 100 events every year and will be hosting a networking evening in Sittingbourne to give organisations the opportunity to establish new contacts and reconnect with old ones.

"The Kent Science Park is an ideal venue for this as it is home to so many great businesses already."

Organisers say they are hoping the event will draw together businesses in the area.

Paul Price, marketing director at Kent Science Park, added: "We are thrilled that Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce has selected Kent Science Park as the venue for their networking evening. The park is deeply committed to developing business in Kent and to the benefits this brings to the local area.

"We have experience of hosting a number of different networking events, making us a natural fit for Kent Invicta.

"We are hopeful that local businesses will be able to utilise the evening to make some valuable connections and will see what Kent Science Park can offer."

The evening is open to members at a cost of £10 and to non-members at a cost of £12. Tickets to the evening can be booked by visiting the Kent Invicta website at www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk or the Kent Science Park website at www.kentsciencepark.co.uk.

Banker goes back to his dairy roots to help farming industry

Nick Ames

nick.ames@archnat.co.uk

A BANKER who used to work on the land in farming has joined Clydesdale Bank as its agri business partner for Kent and Sussex.

Born and bred on a mixed farm between Eastbourne and Lewes where he worked with his family, Justin Ellis also spent a year managing a dairy farm in New Zealand before embarking on a new career in banking with Clydesdale Bank's sister organisation, the Bank of New Zealand.

"I was keen to bring the family back to the UK," said Mr Ellis.

"I was itching to get back to working with farms and farmers and family businesses.

"There are real challenges facing the industry which has seen three or four years of dramatic price fluctuations and real uncertainty over commodity prices.

"There is also an ageing farming population and as a bank we can help with succession planning, supporting farmers bringing the next generation into the industry."

Operating from Clydesdale Bank's Tunbridge Wells Financial Solutions Centre (FSC), Mr Ellis is keen to use the bank's relationship-driven approach to help farmers meet those challenges.

Clydesdale has had great success with its Investing for Growth initiative which offers benefits such as loan repayment holidays, interest-only repayments and extended loan and credit terms, and is designed to help businesses take advantage of quality growth opportunities by providing investment finance, increasing cash flow, and easing debt commitments.

The bank recently confirmed it had met its target of £10 billion of new lending for business and personal customers in two years to October, 2011, of which £1bn was earmarked for the South East.

Coupled with a business model that allows lending decisions to be made locally, Mr Ellis believes he is in the perfect position to help Kent's agricultural community.

"I'm a specialist relationship manager connected to the rural community and with contacts with



FULL CIRCLE: Justin Ellis spent a year managing a dairy farm in New Zealand before returning to the UK

the bank's other specialists, credit partners, for example," he said. "We have autonomy to make lending and relationship decisions within the FSC

which, coupled with our knowledge of a member's individual business, means we can react quickly to their changing needs."

Survey shows economic worries impact on demands for commercial property

ACTIVITY seen in the local commercial property market in the first half of the year faltered during the third quarter of 2011, as occupier demand fell back for the first time in six months, according to the latest RICS UK Commercial Market Survey.

After rising at the beginning of the year, overall tenant demand in Kent and the South East retreated in the third quarter, moving into negative territory for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2010, to a net balance of minus five per cent.

Surveyors in the region attribute this to the uncertain outlook for the wider economy which is impacting negatively on demand.

As tenant demand fell, supply of available space remained in positive territory, with five per cent more surveyors reporting a rise over the last three months.

Inducements in the region also rose over the last three months as landlords looked to try to entice tenants into deals.

At a net balance of 22 per cent, inducements



NO SHOW: RICS revealed a rise in the number of commercial properties available on the market

have now increased for the previous two quarters and surveyors note some landlords are incorporating more flexibility into their leases.

The imbalance between falling demand and rising availability impacted on rental expectations

in the South East, which weakened over the quarter, moving deeper into negative territory at -20 per cent.

Michelle Bernhardt, RICS South East spokeswoman, said: "The subdued picture for the South East's commercial property market reflects the wave of negative news surrounding both the prospects for the UK economy and the sovereign debt crisis in Europe.

"Confidence is clearly critical for the whole of the real estate sector, and in the near term there is little reason to believe that it is likely to improve. Against this background, any recovery in rents is likely to prove elusive."

David Robinson, of Karrison Commercial, Westerham, said: "Demand from office-occupiers has been very patchy.

"However, those companies in the market are very selective, with the quality buildings letting first. Landlords are holding on to existing occupiers with some very competitive terms."

Keep Kent Working!
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Pub chain wants new landlords

PUB owner Admiral Taverns held an open day for budding landlords interested in running their own business.

The event took place at Maidstone's Hilton hotel on Tuesday and was used to identify candidates suitable to enter the pub trade by way of a range of training programmes.

Vacancies at Admiral Tavern pubs in Kent include the First and Last in Maidstone; the Royal Oak in Bean, near Bluewater; and the Three Horseshoes in Deal.

Suzanne Smith, head of licensee recruitment and training, said: "We're looking for inspirational individuals who want the freedom and flexibility that comes with running their own business.

"They don't necessarily need to have run a pub before but they do need buckets of enthusiasm, an enterprising outlook, and a will to succeed.

"The open day was a great opportunity to meet some talented people and a chance for those who have always wanted to operate their own pub to come and talk to us, as we have lots of great pubs in the region."

Faversham-based Shepherd Neame also recently held an open day for would-be landlords.

Apprenticeship drive hits target

MEDWAY'S newest apprentices and their employers have been celebrating the success of the council's '100 in 100' challenge.

Launched in May, the initiative – designed to create 100 apprenticeships in 100 days – has seen more than 70 businesses pledge to take on nearly 150 trainees.

The employers range from engineering and construction companies, to decorators, hairdressers, doctors' surgeries and nurseries.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "Speaking from experience as a former apprentice, I know exactly how valuable apprenticeships are for people who want to gain skills and get ahead, and for businesses looking to benefit from new talent.

"I'm pleased to see so many businesses getting involved with this campaign. We really are committed to driving up economic growth here in Medway, and giving both businesses and trainees the tools they need to grow."

Nubia inspires black youths to aim higher

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A MAGAZINE celebrating the achievements of people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds has run a scheme to help young offenders gain employment skills.

Nubia Youth, which is based at Chatham dockyard's centre for creative business, ran a series of workshops for inmates at Medway Secure Training Centre to help them turn their lives around.

The youngsters, who contributed to the latest edition of the magazine, also received an inspirational talk from a former gang member to mark Black History Month.

Editor-in-chief Angela Asieba said the initiative was partly motivated by recent high-profile events.

"The riots that highlighted a 'broken society' have reinforced the work we do with young people and the need to engage with them in a creative way," she said.

"We sent feedback forms to young people – as we design the magazine for their benefit – and they responded positively.

"In our next youth issue we will feature a former gang member-turned-entrepreneur, providing hope to young people that they too can turn their lives around."

The adult version of Nubia – named after the African region that was home to one of the earliest black civilisations – is available online as well as in libraries, community centres

and places of worship.

It focuses on education, health and business issues, and showcases black and ethnic minority (BME) people in a positive light.

According to Nubia, more than 70 per cent of people incarcerated in youth offending institutes in England and Wales are young black males.

The magazine provides training and work experience for youngsters across the South East and aims to extend its services to offenders nationwide in the hope it will have a positive impact on their rehabilitation process.

Nubia Youth editor Jamaal Asieba said: "We young people need a voice and a platform to challenge our concerns within

a creative and enterprising environment. We believe Nubia Youth provides that."

The former gang member who spoke to the young inmates was Sheldon Thomas,

who runs the youth mentoring scheme Tag.

"We are happy to be working with Nubia on their creative project during Black History Month," he said.

"Tag's approach is to develop real leaders, entrepreneurs and young men whose morals and integrity are second to none.

"We believe that by addressing deep-rooted issues and unpacking the anger that normally lies at the centre of why young black boys join negative peer groups, we will begin to see real and sustainable change with our young black adults."



INSPIRED: Nubia magazine aims to promote young black men in a positive light

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Building and construction students build eco-house at showcase event

MIDKENT College students helped build an innovative eco-house at the annual World-Skills event in London.

The show at ExCel saw young people from eight further education colleges join forces to build the property in just four days in front of thousands of visitors.

MidKent College students were tasked with installing a range of renewable systems using different heating options, including sustainable appli-

ances, pipework, insulation and under-floor heating.

Stuart Nice, head of faculty for construction and building services, said: "Our students benefited enormously from the experience of being involved in the eco-house build project, and it's great that they were also promoting the importance of energy efficiency and sustainability in the construction of tomorrow's buildings."

The project has given the college a platform on which

to continue strengthening its extensive networks with other colleges, as well as industry and professional bodies.

These links have led to the college working with Central Sussex College and Hastings College as part of the acclaimed National Academy for Renewables Training.

Of the 1,000-plus construction and building services students and apprentices at the college, more than 50 per cent are employed in the industry.

UCA boss is keen to retain local bonds

THE new Vice-Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts officially started his new role this month.

Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr was responsible for leading significant development in the faculty of art, design and architecture at Kingston University, and takes over at UCA from the retired Professor Elaine Thomas.

Outlining his vision for the university – which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – Dr Ofield-Kerr said preserving links with local communities and industries will be key for future success.

He said: "The long tradition of British art colleges serving local communities and equipping local businesses with the skills they need to survive has helped make Britain a leader in the creative industries."

"I am very keen to preserve the traditions of our founder colleges by maintaining close links with the communities UCA serves across Kent."

Dr Ofield-Kerr said he was also keen to retain UCA's specialist nature, believing that immersing students in a creative environment allows them to develop as practitioners and produce challenging and innovative work.

He added: "Having students from disciplines as diverse as animation, architecture, fashion, graphic design, product design and fine art learning in the same physical environment and seeing one another's work develop is extremely important. A huge amount of peer-to-peer learning takes place in studios and workshops."



AMBITIOUS: Vice-Chancellor Dr Ofield-Kerr

"Students don't just turn up for their lectures and go home again; they work long days in the studios and workshops developing their own creative work."

"This form of creative experience needs to be embraced and developed in the current challenging climate for UK higher education."

At Kingston, Dr Ofield-Kerr oversaw a significant increase in the number of international students and says he is keen to internationalise UCA both in terms of its curriculum and its student body.

UCA has more than 7,000 students studying at campuses in Kent and Surrey.

Newspaper scholarship for student on university's journalism course

A JOURNALISM student at the University of Kent has won an exclusive scholarship with the Daily Mail.

Joseph Downes, 22, from Meopham, became one of the first two winners of the new annual award when his comment article and interview won over a panel including the newspaper's executive managing editor Robin Esser.

The Centre for Journalism student, who previously attended the Leigh City Tech-

nology College, Dartford, will undertake a valuable work placement at the Daily Mail next year as well as having part of his university tuition fees covered.

"The selection process was very nerve-racking but I'm absolutely ecstatic and very proud to be associated with the Mail," he said.

The other scholarship winner was Joseph's fellow postgraduate multimedia journalism student Nick Gutteridge.

Professor of journalism Tim Luckhurst said: "This is a huge opportunity for both Joseph and Nick to experience work in one of the country's most successful news operations. I'm delighted for both of them."

"I am sure they will seize the chance to impress and to learn from one of the most professional teams in journalism."

The competition for the new Daily Mail scholarship was open to all postgraduate applicants to the MA



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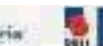
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Maidstone Borough Council

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the leasehold interest in approximately 6,440 sq. metres of land at Penshurst Close, Grove Green; to Boxley Parish Council to enable them to plant a Community Orchard to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ; where the plan can be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services at the above address, no later than **Friday 2 December 2011.**

Steve Goulette

Assistant Director of Environment and
Regulatory Services
Friday 21 October 2011



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0724/S - KENWARD FARMHOUSE, KENWARD ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AG - Application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey extension to the west elevation and demolition of existing chimney. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1153/S - BRIDGEHURST OAST, HOWLAND ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9EP - Change of use of agricultural land to residential use and the formation of a new access and driveway with timber gates on brick piers. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1177/N - 2, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4LP - Extensions and alterations to building to facilitate change of use from C3 Dwelling to C1 Student Boarding House. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1315/S - EAST VIEW, BYDEWS GRANARY, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JB - Raising of garden land to create terraced areas; retrospective change of use of an area of land to residential garden land and the erection of play equipment; the creation of wooden steps; and the erection of fencing. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1533/S - BROOK HOUSE, OLD LOOSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BL - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a detached garage. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1566/S - 1, THE GREEN, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0HF - Erection of single storey rear extension. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1624/S - GREEN COURT COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AP - An application for Listed Building Consent for alterations to fenestration of rear extension, installation of rooflights and removal and replacement of staircases. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1632/S - BEECH FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NU - Change of use of agricultural building to B1 use. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1644/S - THATCHERS, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Erection of a two storey rear extension (Resubmission of MA/11/0652). **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1645/S - THATCHERS, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Erection of a two storey rear extension and internal alterations (Resubmission of MA/11/0651). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1646/S - 4, WILSON COURT, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6JU - Application to vary Condition 5 of MA/05/0997 (Erection of one detached dwelling with detached garages) to allow conversion of garage into annexe accommodation for an elderly relative. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1664/S - BOYTON COURT, BOYTON COURT ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BY - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of existing shed. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1665/S - BOYTON COURT, BOYTON COURT ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BY - Erection of a glasshouse to replace existing shed. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1670/N - MAITLANDS FARM, WOODSIDE GREEN, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2ES - Erection of grain store for agricultural use and introduction of hard surfacing. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1678/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - An application for listed building consent for the installation new safety line platform to roof of Gloriette. Installation of fall prevention system together with portable ladder to roof slope and provision of new vertical rail system to existing ladder to front water tank turret. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **13th November 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 30th October 2011



PLANNING

HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The order was made on 27 October, 2011 and comes into force on 18 November, 2011.

The effect of the Order will be to consolidate into one document the provisions of the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2010 and all subsequent amendments thereto. This is an administrative matter which will make no changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions, and will require no changes to existing parking lines or signs.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The order was made on 27 October, 2011 and comes into force on 18 November, 2011.

The effect of the Order will be to consolidate into one document the provisions of the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2010 and all subsequent amendments thereto. This is an administrative matter which will make no changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions, and will require no changes to existing parking lines or signs.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The order was made on 27 October, 2011 and comes into force on 18 November, 2011.

The effect of the Order will be to consolidate into one document the provisions of the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2010 and all subsequent amendments thereto. This is an administrative matter which will make no changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions, and will require no changes to existing parking lines or signs.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The order was made on 27 October, 2011 and comes into force on 18 November, 2011.

The effect of the Order will be to consolidate into one document the provisions of the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2010 and all subsequent amendments thereto. This is an administrative matter which will make no changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions, and will require no changes to existing parking lines or signs.

Full details are contained in the made Orders which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for making the orders, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within six weeks from the date on which the Orders were made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

This Notice is published on behalf of
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone ME14 1XX



Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01570/FUL: Drove House, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PA Replacement dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Green** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01571/CAC: Drove House, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PA Demolition of existing dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Green** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//11/01610/FUL: 23 Stanley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SJ Erection of detached dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Watford** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01611/CAC: 23 Stanley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SJ Demolition of single-storey extension to 23 Stanley Road in connection with redevelopment of site. **Applicant: Mr Watford** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//11/01711/ADV: Unit 16, Marlowe Arcade, Canterbury, CT1 2TJ Internally illuminated fascia sign and non-illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Kuoni** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01713/FUL: 129 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1DY Erection of replacement conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Bunce** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01725/TAM: 9 Rough Common Road, Rough Common, Harbledown, CT2 9DL Replacement of equipment cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01728/FUL: Leacroft, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NW Erection of two detached dwellings one with detached double garage and one with integral garage following demolition of existing dwelling and detached garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Berry** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01730/FUL: 34 Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5DA Replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr H Ibrahim** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01736/TPO: Harbledown Heights, Harbledown Park, Harbledown, CT2 8NR Fell one and reduce crown of two Norway Maple trees subject of TPO No 2 of 1998. **Applicant: Mr Peter Jones** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01740/FC: Ford Manor Farm, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS Erection of agricultural building. **Applicant: JE Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01782/CAC: Leacroft, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NW Demolition of dwellinghouse and associated double garage (Leacroft). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Berry** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 21 November 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 28 October 2011

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13**

**KCC/AS/0426/2011 - Proposed development
at Ripley Auto Spares Ltd, Brisley Lane,
Bilsington, Kent, TN25 7JF**

Ripley Auto Spares Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for erection of an additional vehicle dismantling building at the site and for the demolition of an existing office and store building.

You may view this application at the following locations:

- Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
- Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford
- Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND
COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND)
ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING
(LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION
AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/SH/0440/2011 - Proposed development
at The Folkestone School for Girls, Coole Lane,
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3RB**

The Folkestone School for Girls is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for new and replacement gates and fences to improve site security at the school, including some works within the curtilage of a listed building. The proposed development would affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 30 October 2011



MARRIAGE LICENCES

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Old Lighthouse, Dungeness, Romney Marsh**

Applicant: **Jill Stanners**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Salutation, Knightbridge Street, Sandwich**

Applicant: **Dominic Parker**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Holiday Inn, Ashford North, A20 Maidstone Road, Hothfield, Ashford**
Howard Shields

Applicant:

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/03030/FUL Harnack House Forest Farm, Benenden**
Works to roof space to make into holiday lets or rental to include 1 x dormer, 3 x velux and 2 additional windows (retrospective) (LB)
- 11/03153/FUL OS Plot 6287 Iden Green Road, Benenden**
- Dwelling with car port (CA) (LB)
- 11/03032/FULMJ Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre Eridge Road, Broadwater**
Demolition of two-storey building and erection of a single-storey extension, to include reorganisation of parking for The Garden Centre Group (CA) (DEVPLN) (MAJOR)
- 11/03090/HOUSE 4 Rusthall Place Langton Road, Broadwater**
- Wheelchair accessible shower room extension within service/entrance courtyard (CA)
- 11/03182/LBC Rammell House Cranbrook School The Hill, Cranbrook and Sissinghurst**
- Listed building consent - removal of existing window on first floor and alter opening to accommodate an external door for alternative means of escape via a freestanding metal staircase painted black (LB)
- 11/03139/HOUSE 1 Marlingate Cottages Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Two-storey side extension (LB)
- 11/03109/HOUSE 4 Cranbrook Road Hawkhurst, Hawkhurst**
- Two storey side extension (CA)
- 11/03137/HOUSE Little Pix Hall High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Single storey rear extension with cat-side roof, with alterations at first floor including new dormer and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof (LB)
- 11/03140/LBC Little Pix Hall High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension with cat-side roof, with alterations at first floor including new dormer and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof (LB)
- 11/03142/HOUSE The Oast Smalls Farm, Horsmonden**
- Internal alterations, replacement of shed entrance with continuation of existing lean-to roof, alterations, infilling and insertion of external openings (PROW) (LB)
- 11/03143/LBC The Oast Smalls Farm, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations, replacement of shed entrance with continuation of existing lean-to roof, alterations, infilling and insertion of external openings (LB)
- 11/03158/HOUSE Church Farm Barn Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Reform existing conservatory with new oak-framed conservatory with hipped roof (LB)
- 11/03159/LBC Church Farm Barn Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent - Reform existing conservatory with new oak-framed conservatory with hipped roof (LB)
- 11/03136/HOUSE Bewkes Hog Hole Lane, Lamberhurst**
- (A) Installation of wood-burning central heating boiler and antique reclaimed radiators; (B) Repair or replace two timbers in the old part of house; (C) Rebuild a gable-end wall and single pitched garden room roof (LB)
- 11/03175/HOUSE Mill Cottage High Street, Lamberhurst**
- (Land to rear of Osbourne House) Demolition of garages and erection of timber framed garage block with pitched roof. Removal of concrete hardstanding and replacement with porous surface (CA) (LB)
- 11/03066/FUL 15 - 17 Vale Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from shop to estate/letting agent on the basement, ground floor and first floor (CA)
- 11/03200/FUL 5 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolition of existing structures and erection of 3 bedroom dwelling (CA)
- 11/03201/CAC 5 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of two storey building and block of 3 garages (CA)
- 11/02947/FUL 62 Mount Pleasant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Provision of roof extension and alterations to increase the number of self-contained residential flats from two to six (CA)
- 11/03138/HOUSE 1 Dunorian Farm Cottages Halls Hole Road, Park**
- Loft conversion with roof extension including velux roof windows (CA)
- 11/03161/HOUSE 93 Woodhill Park Pembury, Pembury**
- Revised fenestration at east and southern elevation and reduced roof profile of rear extension (CA)
- 11/03133/FUL Dorothy Kerin Trust Burrswood Hospital, Speldhurst**
- Alteration of external circulation ramps and relocation of steps (LB)
- 11/03134/LBC Dorothy Kerin Trust Burrswood Hospital, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Alteration of external circulation ramps and relocation of steps (LB)
- 11/03156/LBC Langton Lodge The Green, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Conservation style velux rooflight window into existing side elevation (LB)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 29 October 2011

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

NAME OF APPLICANT: H & K CORPORATION LTD.
Address of premises: 7 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN1 2AH.

It is proposed to licence these premises for late night opening.

Notice is hereby given that H & K Corporation Ltd has applied to Tunbridge Wells council for the grant of Late Night Premises Licence (refreshment purpose) for our subway where we sell food and soft drinks from 7am till 1am Mon to Wed, 7am till 3am Thu to Sat and 9am to 8pm on Sunday. Our premises is equipped with CCTV which records and is available to view up to a month. We do not carry any entertainment which can harm children. Only music played in the shop is from pre-recorded cd's. Representation can be made in writing by 20/11/2011.

Please write to the address below

Licensing Partnership, PO Box 182, Sevenoaks, TN1 1GP

E-mail: licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Website: <http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

Full details of the application can be inspected by appointment at address above.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

Notice of application for grant
of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to
Schedule 3
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)
Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 27th October 2011 James Pemble applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the grant of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 19.00 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 19.00- 03.00 ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 24th November 2011.

Name: James Pemble
Organisation: Players,
Address: 57, High Street,
MAIDSTONE
KENT ME14 1SY
Date: 27th October 2011

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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

We Village Green Restaurants Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4DZ and to be known as The Old Mill. The application can be viewed at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL (telephone number 01233 330721) during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 21st November 2011.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000

Stephen Thomas LAW

8 Grassmere, Leybourne,

West Malling

Kent.

ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
& VILLAGE GREENSVILLAGE GREENS -
IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)
APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS
THE DOWNS AT HERNE BAY AS A NEW TOWN GREEN

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector has been appointed by the Kent County Council to hold a non-statutory Public Inquiry into the above application and will attend at:

St. Andrew's Hall, Hampton Pier Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8AA

On Monday 28th November 2011 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the application

A copy of the Inspector's directions setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

Any person wishing to attend the Public Inquiry to give evidence who is not already being called as a witness by one of the parties, must notify the County Council of his intention to do so, and provide a signed and dated written statement setting out the substance of his evidence no later than 4pm on Friday 4th November 2011.

For further enquiries, please contact Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628

PROW - BOROUGH OF
TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER
TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS
MU88 AND MU43 IN TONBRIDGE
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MU88 AND MU43
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984,
SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MU88 between Scott Road and Masefield Way and Footpath MU43 between Sussex Road and (Hayesbrook School) on Brook Street from the 21st October 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that they will reopen before 1st November 2011.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on or near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service

Kent County Council

Invicta House

County Hall

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 1XX

Dated: 30 October 2011

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BUNYAN

Maria Nicholson and Lee Bunyan are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Rory Lee Bunyan born on 28th September 2011 weighing 8lb 15oz.

HAIGH

Welcome to the world Olivia Elizabeth Haigh born 9th October 2011 weighing 9lb 6oz. Daughter to James and Rachel Haigh.

JENNER

Adam and Jenny are delighted to announce the birth of their

beautiful baby daughter Tamarin Phoenix Jenner born on 13th October 2011. A baby sister for Saffron and Tegan. xx

MANNERING

David and Carly celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Peter Mannerling, born on 10th October 2011 weighing 6lbs 13oz.

McCulloch

Andrew and Elizabeth of Hythe are delighted to announce the arrival of a little brother for Lindsay Elizabeth. Cameron James

McCulloch was born on 11th October 2011 weighing 11lb 4oz.

MUNIB

Mr and Mrs Munib Hadi would like to welcome the birth of their son Syed Mahd Munib.

SIDHU

Aneil and Dawn are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Kayla Marie Sidhu who was born on 8th October 2011 at 2:53 pm and weighed 6lb 10oz.

SMITH

Nichola and Aaron of Broadstairs are

delighted to announce the birth of their wonderful triplets, born on the 4th October 2011 at QEQM Hospital: Ted Patrick Smith, born at 00:46 hours, Evie Ester Smith, born at 00:47 hours and Noah James Smith, born at 00:48 hours. You are the three miracles who we will love and treasure forever.

SPENCER-ROGERS

Millie-Grace Kathleen born on 7th October 2011 at the William Harvey Hospital weighing 6lbs 7oz. Daughter to Daniel

and Cherie Spencer-Rogers, sister to Oliver, Harvey and Lily-May.

YELDING

Demi-Leigh Joyce born on 16th October 2011, weighing 9lbs 4oz. Daughter to Philip and Emma-Louise Rochester. Mummy and Daddy's special little princess.

DEATHS

CHARLTON

Geoffrey George Charlton passed away on 18th October 2011 aged 83. Sadly missed by wife Anne, children and grandchildren.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

KENARDINGTON LEVEL CROSSING, KENARDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kenardington Level Crossing, Kenardington, from Thursday 17 November 2011 at 11.00 pm until Friday 18 November at 7.00 am.

Snargate Road / Hogg Lane will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Hogg Lane, Arrowhead Lane, Church Road, B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Kenardington and Snargate Road.

PLUMPTON, WYE, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumpton, Wye, Ashford, on or after 14 November 2011 for up to 14 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hinxhill Road and Hampton Lane.

The alternative route is via Hinxhill Road, Spelders Hill, The Street, Amage Road, Brabourne Road and Hampton Lane.

Bockham Lane traffic affected should use Quarrington Lane.

The road will be re-opened over the Christmas period.

WAREHORNE LEVEL CROSSING, WAREHORNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Network Rail level crossing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warehorne Level Crossing, Warehorne, from 16 November 2011 at 11.00 pm until 17 November at 7.00 am.

Church Road, Warehorne will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Firs Lane, Hogg Lane and Arrowhead Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A28 ST GEORGE'S ROUNDABOUT, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 St George's Roundabout, Canterbury, from 4 November to 9 November 2011 inclusive (except Sunday), between 8.00 pm and 2.00 am.

The roundabout will be closed in 2 phases, as signposted on site. The effects for each phase are shown below.

St George's Roundabout - south east (cinema) side

A28 St George's Roundabout will be closed at the junction with St George's Place

A28 Broad Street / Lower Bridge Street will be closed westbound from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to St George's Roundabout.

St George's Place will be closed for its entire length.

Lady Wootton's Green will be closed westbound only (i.e. towards the ring road).

Monastery Street will become one-way southbound only, from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to the junction with Longport.

Longport will become one-way eastbound only, between the junctions with Monastery Street and Lower Chantry Lane.

The one-way Traffic Order in respect of Dover Street will be suspended.

The alternative route is via Lady Wootton's Green, Monastery Street, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, A2050 New Dover Road and Old Dover Road.

Local diversions will be in place for side roads, as signposted on site.

St George's Roundabout - north west (bus station) side

A28 St George's Roundabout will be closed eastbound only between the junctions with Upper Bridge Street and Lower Bridge Street.

Upper Bridge Street will be closed east bound.

The alternative route is via A28 Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, A290 Rheims Way, St Peter's Place, St Dunstan's Street, North Lane, B2248 St Stephen's Road, Kingsmead Road, A28 Tourtel Road, Military Road, Broad Street and Lower Bridge Street.

The traffic restrictions limiting the use of **St George's Lane** to buses and taxis only will be suspended.

NEW HOUSE LANE, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gully cleaning in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on New House Lane, Chartham, from 19 November 2011 for up to 2 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 12 - 39.

The alternative route is via Chartham Downs Road and Iffin Lane.

ST DUNSTAN'S TERRACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of ducting works in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, on or after 14 November 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with London Road.

The alternative route is via London Road, New Street and Orchard Street.

SYDNEY ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sydney Road, Whitstable, on or after 14 November 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, as shown below. The dates of the phases may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The initial phase is in the vicinity of the junction with St Andrew's Close (outside number 121).

The alternative route is via Saddleton Road, Norman Road and Gosselin Street.

The other phase is in the vicinity of number 32.

The alternative route is via Norman Road, Gosselin Street, and Sydney Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HAYES ROAD, STONE, DARTFORD) (SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the Traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2) 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:

A. The Kent County Council (Borough of Dartford) (School Keep Clear) Order 2011 shall have effect as though -

SCHEDULE
PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 9:00AM OR BETWEEN 14:30PM AND 16:00PM ON MONDAY TO FRIDAY

This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Hayes Road, Stone, Dartford) (School Keep Clear) Order 2011".

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford District Council Offices, Home Gardens, Dartford and at Sessions House, Maidstone at normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support or object to the proposed

Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

RICHBOROUGH LEVEL CROSSING, RICHBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to upgrade the lighting at the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Richborough Level Crossing, Richborough, on or after Saturday 5 November 2011 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Richborough Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich By-pass, A257 Sandwich Road, Cooper Street Drove and Richborough Road.

STRAKERS HILL, EAST STUDDAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Strakers Hill, East Studdal, on or after 14 November 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Homestead Lane and Roman Road.

The alternative route is via Homestead Lane and Roman Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE STREET AND PRESTON ROAD, DOVER) (30 MPH AND 40 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82(2), 83(2) and 84(1), (a) and (2) and Part IV Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

- No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour in the locations specified in schedule 1.
- No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 40 miles per hour in the locations specified in schedule 2.
- The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Schedule 1:

Road Name	Distance
School Lane	Entire Length
The Street	For a distance of 165 metres in a north easterly direction from its junction with School Lane.
The Street / Preston Road	For a distance of 470 metres in a south westerly direction from its junction with School Lane.
Santon Lane	For a distance of 160 metres in a southerly direction from its junction with The Street.

Schedule 2:

Road Name	Distance
Preston Road	From a point 90 metres west of its junction with Santon Lane to a point 65 metres south east of its junction with Church Lane.
The Street	From a point 165 metres north east of its junction with School Lane to a point 95 metres north east of the northern boundary of Stour Bridge.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 5) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) , 2(1) to (3) 3(2) , 4(1) and (2) , 32(1), 35(1) , 45, 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will be to reduce an existing limited waiting parking bay in High Street and to introduce a new disabled persons parking bay in High Street.

The Order will also introduce loading restrictions in the following locations:

High Street (east side) - From the junction with Market Street to the junction with King Street

High Street (west side) - From the northern boundary of no.75 in a southerly direction to a point opposite the southern kerbline of King Street

King Street (both sides) - From the junction with High Street for a distance of 20m in an easterly direction
A copy of the proposed Order and the relevant plans and other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent and Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 8) ORDER 2011

The Council of the County of Kent in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby make the following Order:-

In the Schedules to the Order

LAPIS CLOSE - CHALK

The following items to be inserted in the Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

Lapis Close - Chalk: On both sides from the junction with Orlick Road for a distance of 12 metres in an easterly direction

LOWER HIGHAM ROAD - CHALK

The following items to be inserted in the Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

Lower Higham Road - Chalk: On the northern side from a point in line with the common boundary of Nos.111 and 113 Lower Higham Road for a distance of 24 metres in an easterly direction

ORLICK ROAD - CHALK

The following items to be inserted in the Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

Orlick Road - Chalk: On the eastern side between points 12 metres north and 12 metres south of the junction with Lapis Close

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Gravesham Council Offices, Civic Centre, Gravesend, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PILGRIMS WAY, DETLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pilgrims Way, at the junction with Queens Way on or after Sunday 20th November 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Thurnham Lane, Ware Street, Hockers Lane, The Street.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cable repair works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Mandy Richardson on 08700 500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (AMENDMENT NO 8) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone
- (i) Bazalgette Rise - From a point in line with the junction with Milton Street to a point in line with its junction with Hartnup Street for the entire length on both sides of the road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BAZALGETTE RISE, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. The effect of the proposed Order will prohibit any vehicle from travelling south to north on Bazalgette Rise, Maidstone, from the junction with Milton Street to the junction with Hartnup Street.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BECKETT'S LEVEL CROSSING, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Network Rail level crossing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beckett's Level Crossing, Brookland, from Monday 14 November at 11.00 pm until Tuesday 15 November 2011 at 7.00 am.

Beckett Road (Fairfield Road), Brookland will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Beckett Road, A259 Rye Road, Brookland By-pass, Straight Lane, Brenzett Corner, B2080 Rhee Wall, Rhee Wall Road, Station Road and Beckett Road.

BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone, on or after Sunday 20 November 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A260 Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derrington Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

WARREN ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Network Rail level crossing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warren Road Level Crossing, Folkestone, from Sunday 20 November 2011 at 1.00 am until Monday 21 November at 4.00 am.

Warren Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Southern Way, A260/A2033 Dover Road, Wear Bay Road, Foreland Avenue, Warren Way and Warren Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGH STREET AND MARKET STREET, MARGATE) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby propose to make the following Order:-

The effect of this order will revoke the order: "The Kent County Council (High Street and Market Street, Margate) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2007".

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order.

Schedule 1	
High Street	1.) From the junction with Market Street to the junction with Queen Street
High Street	2.) From the junction with Queen Street to the junction with Mill Lane
Market Street, The Parade, Duke Street, Newby's Place, Lombard Street	For their entire length

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (NETHERCOURT HILL, RAMSGATE) (RESTRICTED ROAD TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 82 (1) and 87 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act hereby propose to make the following Order:-

(Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate) (Restricted Road Traffic) Order 2012

The effect of the proposed order will revoke the order: The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Thanet) (Speed Limits) Order 1995 Schedule 20 (a) Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate. By revoking this order Nethercourt Hill will become a (30mph) restricted speed road.

- Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate - Between the junction with Nethercourt Farm Road and the junction with Nethercourt Circus roundabout (a distance of approximately 400 metres).

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

PARK PLACE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide gas supplies to new dwellings, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Place, Margate, on or after 14 November 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of properties 12 and 17.

The alternative route is via Grosvenor Gardens, Churchfields, High Street and Grosvenor Hill.

The Prohibition of Driving and One-way Traffic Orders in respect of High Street will be suspended, between the junctions with Mill Lane and Grosvenor Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (READING STREET, BROADSTAIRS) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby propose to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed order will introduce a 20mph speed limit in Reading Street, Broadstairs on the following lengths of street:

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20 miles per hour in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- Reading Street and Balliol Road, Broadstairs - For their entire length.
- Elmwood Close, Astor Road, Trinity Square, Broadstairs - For their entire length.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the

proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO XX) ORDER 2011

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act hereby propose to make the following Order:-

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Thanet) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008 shall have effect as though:

The following item to be inserted in the First Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

1. Connaught Gardens - on the northern side for its entire length including the turning head, between points 15 metres east of the junction with Ramsgate Road and 6 metres west of the common boundary of 21 and 23 Connaught Gardens.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st November 2011.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CASTLE STREET SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Castle Street Tunbridge Wells in front of 2 castle street on or after Monday 21st November 2011 for a period of up to 2 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Draper Street or Sheffield Road.

Southern Gas Networks and South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install service to a new development .Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alexandra Earley on 07971 237865.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 30th October 2011

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





Halling's uphill walk shows the Kent Downs in all their glory

SEE PAGE 46



BANG ON CUE

Rundown on the top places to go on bonfire night

SEE PAGES 48-49

Kent Weekend

Ordinary Joe

Mum and dad take top billing on Kent comic's first major tour of UK

SEE PAGE 41



PLUS: The Animals and The Troggs bringing the Sixties back to life - **stage and arts p53** We highlight the finest places to dine out in the Garden of England - **eating out p45** Range Rover's radical new Evoque - **driving p67**



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THE INTERVIEW

Joe Wilkinson

I'm on the poster, but I'm winging it

Comedian Joe Wilkinson has worked his way into the public's consciousness, but he'd have more material for his first tour if he had endured an unhappy childhood, he reveals to reporter **Joe Bill**

It is always nice when a comedian sneaks up on the world and overnight turns from a "who's that?" into an "I've heard of him!".

Kent's Joe Wilkinson is one such funny man who is making big waves in the comedy ocean with a talked-about TV programme, stints at the Edinburgh Festival, and a new tour under his belt.

The 36-year-old former graphic designer takes to the road with his highly rated show 'My Mum Is Called Stella And My Dad Is Called Brian', with a stop at the Canterbury Gulbenkian Theatre along the way.

He said: "It is essentially the show from Edinburgh, but I am still working it out. The title came because I talk about my life up to this point. It's all true, everything I say in the show is true and one of the facts being that my mum is called Stella and my dad is called Brian.

"Many people do this in their first shows where they talk about their lives, but I realised very quickly that I hadn't really done a lot.

"So I talk about how my mum and dad are nice people and brought me up well so I don't have any traumatic stories.

"The great comedians all had these horrible upbringings about a dad who was nasty and a mum who drank too much.

"But my parents are lovely and it's their fault I haven't got anything to talk about, that is the crux of it. Obviously they will be looking forward to seeing the show."

Wilkinson has also just finished his second stint on the much talked about new TV show Him and Hers. The latest series has just finished on BBC Three, a channel that has brought through shows like Gavin and Stacey, and Ideal.

He said: "The writer, Stefan Golaszewski, saw me doing my show at Edinburgh and what I didn't know at the time was that he had written and made the pilot for Him and Her, but my Dan character didn't exist.

"So he wrote in this character with me in mind to play it, but I didn't know.

"He asked me to audition so I was quite glad he hadn't told me before because it would have been pretty embarrassing to not get your own part. I



ACCIDENTAL FUNNYMAN: Joe Wilkinson stumbled into comedy, and has no career plan to fall back on

feel privileged and lucky to be a part of it."

The tour highlights Wilkinson's skills at self-deprecation and his acceptance that he is just ordinary means he has created a unique show.

He said: "It's all about analysing why I haven't done things in my life. I talk about not getting married.

"I realised that weddings were not a joyous occasion, and more that being invited to one

was definitely going to ruin my weekend."

The Kemsing-based comedian is also fairly open about his progression into stand-up comedy, regarding it more of an accident than a planned achievement.

"I didn't do any of the drama school stuff or anything. Like most people I just got a job, I always loved comedy but it was like acting, it wasn't something I could ever see myself doing.

"If you want to be an architect you can see a logical path to it, but not with comedy.

"After years of working I saw this open mic night at a pub.

"It was like doing a bungee jump, there was no reasoning that it was my first step on the way to comedy, I just thought I would do it once and not tell anyone when it goes badly."

After the gig Wilkinson was approached to come back again for another and his act snowballed from there.

He added: "It was a total accident, I didn't carve out a career for myself, I am not bright enough to do that, it just happened around me. It's still sort of happening around me now, I don't really know what's going on but I am going with it."

The Gillingham Football Club fan has also appeared as one half of comedy double act Two Episodes of Mash, alongside Phoenix Nights comedienne Dianne Morgan.

The pair's show has run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for a few years and is now set to be made into a BBC Radio 2 series much to Wilkinson's astonishment.

He said: "Dianne is brilliant. We have done a weird radio series coming out late October on a Saturday night slot. We have finished recording that and we are pleased with it. We have got Radio 2 legend Ken Bruce to be in it as well as other comedians and hopefully people will like it. We will find out soon enough."

Being asked to support both Jimmy Carr and Stephen Merchant on tour, as well as appearances on Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Have I Got News For You, have led Wilkinson to start his own tour this winter.

"This is the first proper tour. I have been gigging for quite a while but this is the first time it is my name on the poster and all that. I'm winging it."

Joe Wilkinson will appear at the Canterbury Gulbenkian Theatre on Wednesday, November 2 at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £12.50 and are available from the box office on 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.

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KATHY 48, likes dogs, walks, cinema, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388300

FEEMALE 74, 5ft 11ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465

URGENT would the gent from Eastbourne please contact Dawn again as I have the wrong number. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378425

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009

DEE blonde, mature, young looking, seeking sugar daddy, any offers? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387722

JANE 50, young at heart, GSOH, divorced, seeks male who wants to do something adventurous like travel the USA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387526

LOOKING for company with someone who can restore my faith in the male species! Karen, sensual 36yr old brunette seeking genuine fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377107

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTm nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377097

LAURA slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Discretion expected/assured. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377095

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTm gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving blonde 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for many male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

BONNE young looking female, seeks older, generous guy to spoil her for love with nice guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun mees, loving treats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579

FEEMALE likes theatre, cinema, music, seeks gent, 50-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377915

SERENE slim black attractive female, 37, friendly, likes reading, nature, theatre, music, WLTm genuine, caring, N/S gent, 34-47 to share laughter and life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, WLTm genuine, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376583

ANNETTE likes cinema, theatre, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387476

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving blonde 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for many male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

BONNE young looking female, seeks older, generous guy to spoil her for love with nice guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm older male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157

AUCIA attractive petite female 29yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTm male for adult fun. AKA. can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783

JENNI 36 slim pretty black female, seeks tall white male who is going to take care of me and be loved in return. Dads welcome 30-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375676

KERRY 26yr old discreet attractive fit female who has been alone for far too long, looking for male 30-65yrs for convenient friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375765

JO bright bubbly attractive country loving lass, looking for solvent older male to have a really good time with. Is that you? AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375763

DONNA lost my faith in men and looking for someone feisty to relight my fire, are you the one, call me, whatya got to loose? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375705

KELLY blue eyed 21yr old blonde looking for someone who knows how to treat a lady for fun times together, 30-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375703

CHRIS attractive slim redhead seeks nice male to relax with, get to know and share a glass of wine and maybe a takeaway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375701

CHLOTTIE 30, sweet fit lady female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male happy to accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for discreet romantic meals and fun drives out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673

CUDDLY lady 65, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, animal lover, drives, WLTm tall, well built, caring single male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371473

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545

30'S female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575

JUDY 56, post op trans gender, seeks guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372269

DEBS petite brunette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine, WLTm affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372219

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactile guy for fun loving times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372217

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curly brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007

HI I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003

CHRISTINE attractive 49yr old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373997

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-voom! Seek adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

FULL time vacancy arises for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157

NICKY 47 slim, honest, loyal, seeks tall, dark haired man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387586

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159

STRIKING blonde 22, green eyes, wicked sense of humour, discreet, lots of spare time at home, looking for open minded friendship 35-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367977

BIG busty brunette, blue eyes, seeks sexy fella for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386430

YOUNG at heart lady with lots to offer Mr Right, looking for open-minded special male for adult fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370013

DIVORCED lonely single mum, blue eyes, employed, OHAC, lots of interests, looking for someone to enjoy life with again. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370011

33YR old slim curvy dark haired female with a GSOH, loves to spend time indoors and the simple things, WLTm similar male, 38-46yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370057

I'M Gorgeous, lively and an outrageous flirt seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, fun times guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223

STUNNING full figured blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221

PAULA tactile and cuddly with blue eyes looking for someone nice who can appreciate a feminine sensual lady. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373585

LISA 19 curly brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131

GENUINE race female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109

PETITE 37yr old nurse with no ties looking for someone nice to spend some romantic time with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370107

QUIET genuine 53yr old female, GSOH, likes nights in/out, seeks 40-50yr old N/S male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386674

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097

AFFABLE serene black attractive female, slim, 37, friendly, likes reading, nature, theatre, music, WLTm genuine, caring, N/S gent, 34-47 to share laughter and life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411

30'S female bored with staying in whilst everyone else goes out, looking for similar lonely heart, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370063

BUSTY nurse slim size 10, brunette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/race/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde who enjoys the simple life seeks understanding older male for fun casual relationship/friendship initially, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371547

ATTRACTIVE cuddly, genuine, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, god owner, animal lover, WLTm tall, well built, animal loving male, 50-69 for friendship, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371467

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium built brunette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings in with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374135

LINDA slim green eyed brunette WLTm independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133

FEMININE attractive female 37, seeking broadminded male for a discreet fun relationship without ties. Must be able to accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367249



TACTILE sensual blue eyed blonde with lots of love, lady lumps, GSOH, OHAC, looking for similar non serious guy for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367247

FUN flirty female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a casual no strings relationship, 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001

BLACK lady early 20's, seeks gentle guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371629

TALL slim auburn haired sincere female, 37, looking for genuine fun relationship with open-minded male, 40-65yrs. Must be able to accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372055

CAREN 40 something bundle of mischief WLTm sincere gentleman for good conversation, fun times and who knows. GSOH an absolute must. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373613

GERRY 5ft 4ins, medium build, blue eyes, likes gym, walks, cycling, holidays, dining in/out, seeks lovely female to share time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367775

JAMES professional, 50's, 5ft 10ins, well travelled, seeks: sensual, feminine, slim lady, 35-52, any race. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376723

WORTHING guy 30's, N/S, likes restaurants, seeking lady, N/S. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387886

YOUNG 61yr old Bexhill man, 5ft 8ins, likes cats, cooking, travel, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387582

NAUGHTY lady 50 plus sought to enjoy naughty fun and friendship with fit 55yr old real man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375083

KEVIN young, fun loving, free spirited, adventurous male, fit, healthy, medium build, shaved hair, likes seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375077

MIKE black male seeks large mature white female for fun and friendly relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387848

DAVID 58, professional, looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157

SPONTANEOUS 50 something male, seeks partner for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388208

THOMAS athletic, easygoing, likes sports, meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks female, 40-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388192

GARY 43, easygoing, seeking female, 36-48 for fun times, friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387812

JOHN 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387274

ROBERT bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373547

TALL caring, considerate male, 52, no ties, seeks female, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375177

DARREN 41, sincere, honest, loyal, caring, tall, dark, likes sports, seeks N/S female, 30-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377957

MARTIN 37, seeks slim female, 29-39 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388150

CHARLES 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, active, likes travel, motor sport, seeks attractive, Oriental female, 30-38 for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388148

ATTRACTIVE caring male, 37, likes most things, meals out, cinema, walks, seeks nice lady, 25-40 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388128

Men Seeking

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BI male, mid 30's, seeks open-minded female with good personality and GSOH for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378737

ITALIAN male, 5ft 4ins, medium build, handsome, seeks female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378637

BRIAN fun loving, looking for female for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388290

IAN 6ft 4ins, brown hair, goatate divorced, fun loving, like children, animals, meals out, seeks female with no ties. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388268

PETER white male, young 70's, N/S, GSOH, seeks open-minded attractive, adventurous female for weekends away etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378385

DEREK black male, seeking mature female for friendship and se-ship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387986

DAVID 58, professional, looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157

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ROBERT bi-curious 4

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Pub's word-of-mouth reputation putting it near the top of the tree

'RESTAURANT food at pub prices.' It's an old line we've all heard a hundred times before, but how often do we really find a pub lunch that encourages us to return time and again?

A rhetorical question perhaps, as we all know the experience generally ranges from congealed or dried rubbish courtesy of the microwave to, at best, a lack-lustre verdict of 'not bad'.

So when a man who knows his restaurants recommended the Royal Oak at Blean Common between Canterbury and Whitstable, it was impossible not to wonder if here, at last, was the pub where eating would be a joy.

The place is, in truth, a fairly ordinary-looking joint on the A290. Inside, it's bright and airy, although dark, cold nights were brought to mind by the cosy snug at the front of the building, complete with roaring log fire.

This is a place geared to dining. A large area is taken up by a restaurant with tables lined in formation and we sat at a table near the bar – mum and dad on the sofa, five-year-old Edward perched on a chair the other side of the table.

It was a table he almost fell off when his child's portion of roast rib of beef, Yorkshire pudding, horseradish sauce and gravy arrived. It was a daunting sight and clearly going to prove too much for the little fella, so dad kindly offered to help out. At which point, he almost fell off his

RESTAURANT REVIEW



seat... This was the best beef I have tasted in a pub, possibly the best I've had anywhere.

The usual 'I wish I'd chosen that' feeling kicked in, but in fact my roast loin of pork, Bramley apple sauce, crackling and gravy really did not match up to the beef. The crackling was perfect (although a bit more would have been welcome), but I've certainly tasted better pork and roast potatoes, which were too hard for my liking, while the sauce had tough lumps of apple that needed more stewing.

Over on the next plate, however, the pan-roasted skate with rosemary, lemon and onion butter sauce was going down well. A mouthful

of the skate confirmed it was cooked to perfection and, again, I wished I'd chosen differently.

The selection of vegetables was excellent, seven varieties surely covering any tastes. Or not... it may sound churlish, but roast potatoes don't greatly complement skate. Homemade chips or perhaps sautéed potatoes would have turned this into a great dish.

Pick of the six choices of dessert was mum's baked dark chocolate tart, caramel orange sauce, mandarin sorbet and cobnut meringue, the sorbet being fantastically good.

The Sunday set price of £15.25 for three courses (£9 for a child) combined with a bottle of Jackson Estate 'Green Lip' Sauvignon Blanc (£22.50), coffees and a couple of soft drinks for a final bill of £71.60.

Good value? Yes. Would I come here again? Yes. Would I recommend it? Yes. Flawless? No. The Royal Oak's food does indeed beat most pubs I've tried, if falling a little short of, say, The Red Lion at Stodmarsh, but a few (and it really is just a few) improvements are needed to really put this place at the top of the tree.

Dave Mairs

■ The Royal Oak, 140 Blean Common, Blean, Canterbury, CT2 9JJ. Telephone 01227 471247

FARMERS' MARKETS

PENSHURST: The Times recently named Peshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is held against the wonderful backdrop of Peshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

EGERTON: Egerton farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stallholders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall, which is extremely popular with both local producers and consumers.

MEOPHAM: Meopham farmers' market has been operating since July, 2004, in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre, the site of the school, library and doctors' surgery, on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

MERSHAM: Featuring top-quality produce from the immediate rural area, the new market that is now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, takes place between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

SISSINGHURST: This market is located in the ancient Elizabethan Barn, next to the Granary restaurant within the famous Sissinghurst National Trust site on the second Monday of every month, when the gardens are open between midday and 3pm.

IWADE: Iwade village hall first opened its popular farmers' market in February, 2009, and it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am until 1pm, offering fresh seasonal local produce at competitive prices.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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01227 766700
www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

The Hutch is now a year old!

Join us on 11th November for our grand anniversary gala dinner

A glass of fizz on arrival and a sumptuous 4 course dinner for £26.50 a head. Places are limited so book early.

In conjunction with the opening of The Marlowe Theatre The Hutch is pleased to offer a pre theatre menu from 17:30hrs on performance nights.

2 courses for £12.50, 3 courses £14.95.

Opening Hours: Tues-Sun 12 noon-4pm last orders 3pm
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EATING OUT

Across the county



Fun and games always on offer at the Tiger Moth

THERE is entertainment available every night at the Tiger Moth in Chatham.

This large family pub has recently had an extensive refurbishment and the management say they are very proud of the results.

Events staged at the Tiger Moth include quiz nights and music and curry nights. Monday evening is poker night, at which beginners are always welcome. The Tiger Moth also has a television around every corner, with six screens installed specially for big sporting events; you can even watch the action outside, and in 3D with the glasses provided for customers.

On the food front, visitors can expect usual pub favourites like fish and chips, rump steak, and Sunday roasts. Vegetarian customers are well catered for, with options such as vegetable jalfrezi, vegetable burritos, spicy beanburger and cheese-and-potato pie.

"On Friday nights we like to have a bit of a party, with music and a bit of dancing. Saturday night we have live music from different acts each week. On the first Sunday of every month we have a music quiz," said landlord Chris Hall.

Tiger Moth is open Monday-Saturday 9am-11pm and Sunday 9am-10.30pm. Breakfast is served every day from 9am-noon; full menu from noon-9.30pm or 9pm on Sundays. The pub has a large car park.

■ Tiger Moth
Highview Drive, Chatham ME5 9UJ
phone: 01634 861 653
www.realpubco.com

CHEF RECOMMENDS

TIGER MOTH: Telephone 01634 861 653
STARTER: Butterfly breaded king prawns, served with a dressed salad garnish and sweet chilli dipping sauce.
MAIN: Italian-style chicken – two breaded chicken breast fillets topped with tomato and basil sauce and cheddar cheese, served with chips, grilled tomato, and peas
DESSERT: Tuckshop ice-cream cake – chocolate brownie with layers of chocolate flavour mousse and dairy clotted cream flavour ice-cream topped with tuck shop classic treats

ELVEY FARM: Telephone 01233 840442
STARTER: Deep-fried breaded Kent Chaucer's camembert served with cranberry sauce
MAIN: Slow-cooked venison and chestnut casserole with a rich red wine sauce and served with creamed mashed potatoes
DESSERT: Baked chocolate fondant served with vanilla ice-cream

SEE HO: Telephone 01474 822386
STARTER: Calamari
MAIN: Sirloin steak
DESSERT: Apple pie and custard

ANTONIAS: Telephone 01732 368 877
STARTER: Crab and avocado served warm with a tomato-brandy cream sauce
MAIN: Spaghetti gamberetti – king prawns, garlic, chilli and cherry tomatoes tossed with baby spinach
DESSERT: Tarufo Limoncello – lemon ice-cream with a soft lemon liqueur centre, coated with crushed lemon merangue, served with strawberry coulis and limoncello



Traditional dishes and a friendly atmosphere at popular See Ho

THE See Ho is a friendly, busy countryside pub that serves great beers and a vast range of home-prepared dishes.

Early-bird specials, dinners, Sunday roasts and fresh fish are all items to have attracted customers to the menu, which is varied and uses as much local produce as possible to keep dishes fresh.

Situated just off the M2, it's perfect for a drink and dinner after shopping at Bluewater.

It is also near lovely stretches of

countryside and a park so is ideal for walkers.

Small or large groups are all catered for and the pub is particularly popular with hikers, who enjoy the excellent local landscape.

The pub regularly takes bookings for tables for up to 30 walkers to eat and drink after long stretches of enjoying the Kent countryside, which is some of the finest in the whole of southern England.

The See Ho is open from 11am-

3pm and 6pm-11pm each day.

Current top-sellers on the menu include home-made rabbit pie, as well as steak-in-ale pie.

Food is cooked to perfection and a two-meals-for-£10 special is also available. All dishes are home-made.

The varied menu includes meatloaf mash with fresh vegetables; fishcakes, chips and peas; and various pasties with chips and peas or beans.

All of the dishes are complement-

ed by excellent beers and wines, which the staff ensure are kept perfectly. Fresh food at very reasonable prices is the key to the success of the venue.

The See Ho can boast a large and loyal following both locally and further afield.

■ The See Ho
Pear Tree Lane, Shorne
DA12 3JX
Telephone: 01474 822386
Email: chalkeyseeho@aol.com

Enjoy a Christmas meal in the country

WITH its stunning views and rustic feel, Elvey Farm in Pluckley really comes into its own at Christmas time.

The log fire crackles away in the warm, cosy bar while the restaurant is given its festive touch with traditional Christmas decorations.

The frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells emanating from the kitchen are extremely tempting as they look to satisfy hungry walkers and visitors on chilly winter days.

Elvey Farm in Pluckley is a beautiful location, in the heart of Darling Buds of May country.

It's the perfect spot for a restaurant, tucked away like a little country oasis serving home-cooked, locally sourced food.

The team at this highly regarded eatery are always on hand and stay open for dinner seven nights a week from 6.30pm. They also serve a traditional Sunday lunch every weekend from midday.

If you are looking for somewhere to book for a Christmas meal, whether it be with work colleagues or family and friends, Elvey Farm is now taking bookings for party groups from eight up to 40 people throughout the festive season.

So there is no need to worry if you think your group is too large, but the team are requiring groups to book in advance.

The sumptuous, traditional Christmas set menu offers two excellent courses for £25 per person or an amazing three courses for just £29.

So if you fancy a Christmas meal in the romantic winter setting of the Kentish countryside make sure you book a spot at Elvey Farm now.

■ Elvey Farm
Elvey Lane, Pluckley,
TN27 0SU
Telephone: 01233 840442
www.elveyfarm.co.uk



WALKS

Halling

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

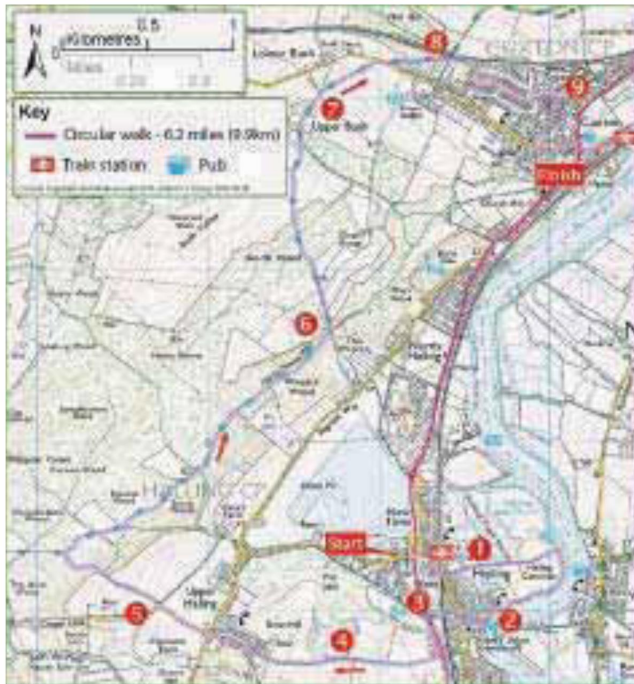
Train stations mark the start and finish of this uphill walk along the Kent Downs

STARTING and finishing at a train station, this walk takes you around Halling Marsh, up through the scarp-top woodlands of the Kent Downs then down into the beautiful farmland landscape of the lower valley.

Leaving Halling train station, follow the signs that take you to Halling Marsh. When you reach the River Medway, go over the stile, turn right and follow the riverside path.

Cross over the stile to leave Halling Marsh and continue along the water's edge along Maximilian Drive.

Follow the road round to the right heading away from the river and towards the high street. You will see some steps here and also some on the Wouldham side of the river directly opposite. Turn right on to the high street and after 50 metres turn left into Cemetery Road. Follow this all



the way across the railway bridge and main road below.
For a shorter walk, continue along

FACT FILE

- **Location:** 6.2 miles/9.9km
- **Time:** 3.5 hours approximately
- **Terrain:** These paths can become muddy and there are some steep sections. Three stiles, two flights of steps (five and 32 steps) and some gates. A short stretch of road walking with no pavement.
- **Start point:** Halling train station, ME1 1BN
- **End point:** Cuxton train station, ME2 1AB
- **OS Explorer Map:** 148

the high street until you reach Halling train station on your right.

After crossing the bridge, turn left along the footpath parallel with the road below, which will take you uphill towards the Kent Downs.

After 1km the footpath will become a road. Follow this and continue straight into Upper Halling. As the road bears to the left, you will see a footpath straight ahead. Take this footpath uphill heading towards the scarp-top woodland. Continue into Ten Acre Wood until you reach a junction with the North Downs Way.

Turn right and follow the North Downs Way for almost 2km.

When you reach a crossroads of footpaths, take the left-hand path to continue along the North Downs Way. Follow this, going through the kissing gate, uphill into North Wood. Continue along the path passing alongside woodland on your left and into Upper Bush.

Where the road bears to the left, take the footpath on your right taking you across fields towards Cuxton. When you reach the main road, turn right and after 50 metres cross over and take the footpath on your left into the woodland of Mill Hill.

Continue uphill until you get to a footpath on the left taking you over a railway bridge. Continue straight ahead through the kissing gate and down the driveway onto Popicans Road. Alternatively, you can take the footpath across the railway bridge to explore Ranscombe Farm, a nature reserve and working farm.

Follow Popicans Road, turning right at the end into White Leaves Rise. Cross over, taking the footpath down the alleyway ahead. Cross over Ladywood Road and continue until you reach the main road. Turn left and walk along the pavement until the road joins the A228 main road.

Cross over at the traffic lights and take the next road on your left. Follow Station Road to the end, where Cuxton train station is in front of you.

EXPLORE KENT is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast. Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or phone 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).

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Or email: varicoseveins@thespencerwing.com



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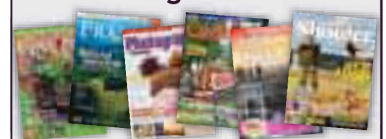
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FOOD & DRINK

Sunday roasts: Six of the Best



Red Lion Herne Hill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Herne Hill, there is a warm, festive atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Join in for mulled wine and a varied selection of beers and real ales.

On the menu...

Three-course traditional Christmas menu at £24.95 per person - book 10 or more during December and the organiser eats for free. Please visit the website for the full menu.

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Herne Hill, Faversham ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
website: www.theredlion.org

A traditional favourite for all the family

THE SUNDAY roast is one Britain's traditions and it has been exported to many corners of the world.

But where better to enjoy the full flavours of a roast dinner than in the Garden of England? After all it is the place where so much of the produce which goes to make a truly memorable Sunday feast originates.

Whether it is the finest of vegetables from the county's farms or the famous lamb of Romney Marsh, Kent has some of the foods which go towards making the meal a true experience.

Culinary experts from the 19th century describe how to roast "the noblest of about 10lbs" of meat before the fire for four hours for Sunday lunch.

This method of hanging the meat in a spit or in the 19th

century suspended from a hook, demanded a suitable fireplace and would be to feed a large household not only on the Sunday, but on cold days, stews and pies throughout the week.

The less well-off did not have the luxury of such facilities or money for large amounts of meat, so the smaller weekly roast would be dropped off en route to church at the bakery to be cooked in the cooling bread ovens, as bread was traditionally not baked on a Sunday.

So with access for all to cooked meat on a Sunday, the tradition of the Sunday lunch began and continues today.

Though meat is no longer roasted in front of the fire, we still use the term "roast".

It is the time to get together and share one of our greatest national treasures - cooked to perfection in the inns, pubs and restaurants of Kent.



The Angel West Malling

Why here...

The Angel prides itself on serving a traditional Sunday roast with all the trimmings (£8.95) using locally supplied fresh seasonal vegetables and meats with homemade gravy and Yorkshire pudding.

On the menu...

A wide range of traditional favourites and a la carte dishes plus a specials board for daily delivered fresh fish specials. Monday to Friday a two-course set menu for £11 is also available.

How to book...

The Angel, Addington Green, West Malling
phone: 01732 842117
email: angeladdington@pat.co.uk
www.theangelinaddington.co.uk



The Olive Tree Ramada Dover

Why here...

Sunday lunch is a great time to get together with the family and enjoy our lavish Sunday carvery buffet in our beautiful new restaurant with our resident pianist playing quietly in the background to add to the excellent atmosphere. The two-course buffet is just £12.95 per person with children under-12 able to dine for half price and the three-course buffet is £14.95 per person. All dishes

are from our internationally trained chefs.

On the menu...

Our Sunday carvery lunch offers an 'Eat All You Can' buffet featuring a selection of starters, three meat choices, roast vegetables and a vegetarian option, followed by a range of delicious desserts from the dessert display all specially prepared.

How to book...

Ramada Hotel, Singledge Lane, Whitfield
phone: 01304 872945
email: reservations@ramadadover.co.uk

First and Last Herne

Why here...

A great service from friendly staff is the norm; this pub offers a fantastic choice of food, real ales and wines. The function room offers a great party and event venue, but any visit is a special one!

On the menu...

Traditional pub food is served at lunchtimes including sandwiches and biquettes. The evening a la carte menu offers such highlights as roasted duck breast with peppercorn sauce and fresh vegetables.

How to book...

The First and Last Herne Common, Herne Bay
phone: 01227 384465
www.firstandlastherne.co.uk



Waterfront Dover Marina

Why here...

Overlooking Dover's seaford, the waterfront restaurant is a great venue to get together with the family and enjoy a lavish Sunday carvery buffet in our new restaurant with our resident pianist playing in the background for added ambience and to create an intimate feeling. The Sunday carvery buffet starts from just £12.95 per person for a one-course buffet. The restaurant is also open seven

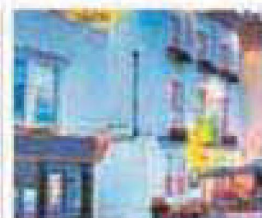
days a week for both lunch and dinner.

On the menu...

Our Sunday carvery lunch offers an 'Eat All You Can' buffet featuring a selection of starters, three meat choices, roast vegetables and a vegetarian option, followed by a range of desserts from the display which are all created by our talented chefs.

How to book...

The Waterfront Restaurant, Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, Waterloo Crescent
phone: 01304 203633



Beachbrow Hotel Deal

Why here...

The super Sunday roasts is not to be missed. A small family-run hotel with helpful and friendly staff. Both restaurant and bar have beautiful sea views across the English Channel and the White Cliffs.

On the menu...

Sunday roasts are second to none, offering a selection of meats such as Ashham Valley beef, fruit-fed pork, free-range chicken, duck, and Romney Marsh lamb. Local vegetables are cooked fresh.

How to book...

The Beachbrow Hotel, 29 Beach Street, Deal, CT14 6HJ
phone: 01304 374338
beachbrowbookings@bt.co.uk

DUNORLAN PARK FIREWORKS

Proceeds to charities

Display

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER at 7.00pm

ADMISSION AT THE GATE
Adults £7 Children £4

ADVANCE TICKET PRICE
Adults £5 Children £3

(gates on Pembury Road
and Bayhall Road open at
5.30pm, No access from
Halls Hole Road entrance)

PLEASE NOTE:
NO alcohol can be taken in
NO dogs are allowed

For advance ticket outlets
visit www.rtwrt.org

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www.canterburyghosttour.com
or call 0845 519 0267

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This Halloween join Kent's
Premier Award Winning Ghost
Hunter John Hippisley on his tour
through the historic City of
Canterbury and feel the spirits of
the dead!

Meeting all year, Friday &
Saturday at 20:00 outside
Alberrys Wine Bar
See website for Halloween
Weekend Special Tours

SPOOKTACULAR FUN!

at Kent Life this Half Term

22nd-30th October

- Creepy Crawly Cuddle Corner
- Trick or Treating
- Ghastly Story Telling
- Spooky Face Painting
- Daily Halloween Costume Competitions

PLUS 10% off in the Gift Shop on production
of this advert (until 31 October 2011)

31st October

SPECIAL After School Trick or Treating
2pm-5pm (prize for the best costume at 4pm)

BONFIRE & FIREWORK Extravaganza

Saturday 5th November
4.30pm - 8.30pm
(last admission 7.30pm)



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Kent Life, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU
www.kentlife.org.uk
01622 763936

**Kent
Life**

HALLOWEEN AND BONFIRE NIGHT

KENT LIFE

Firework night spectacular to light up Kent Life

KENT Life, in Sandling, near Maidstone, is hosting one of the most exciting bonfire and firework spectacles in the region on Saturday, November 5, between 4.30-9pm.

Crowds will be wowed as fearless fire breathers light an impressive bonfire, followed by an amazing firework performance set to music by one of the county's leading firework specialists, Phoenix Fireworks.

Events manager Kirsty Vernon said: "Phoenix Fireworks are well known for their award-winning displays and the truly amazing fireworks at the London Eye for New Year's Eve over the past few years.

"We are very excited to see what they've created for our visitors and hope everyone enjoys our bonfire and

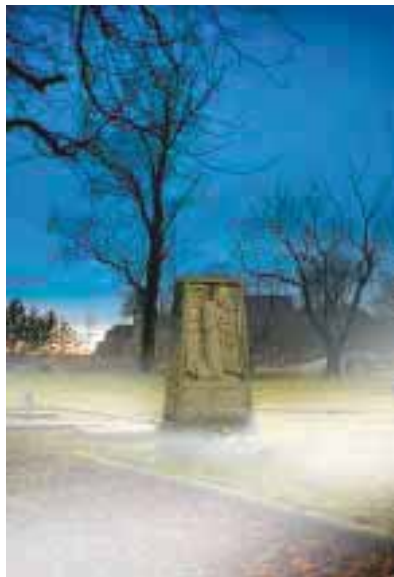


firework spectacular."

Crowds can help light up Kent Life by joining in a 'glow stick galore' where visitors are encouraged to wear glow sticks and create a big neon glow.

Children will be able to enjoy all the fun of a traditional funfair that will be rolling into town, including swingboats, a village fair, tea cups, swans, a game zone and the carousel that was used in the TV series Darling Buds of May.

Food such as hog roasts, chips, hot dogs and burgers as well as jacket potatoes and soup will be sold at Kent Life's traditional 1950s tearoom. Admission can be pre-booked by calling 01622 763936 or tickets will be available on the day, discounts for members.



CANTERBURY GHOST TOUR

Walk Canterbury's haunted streets

FOR children and adults, Halloween can be a time to rejoice during the dark cold nights that come this time of year.

Ghost hunters too, can celebrate that for on that weekend they will have plenty of extra interest in their stories.

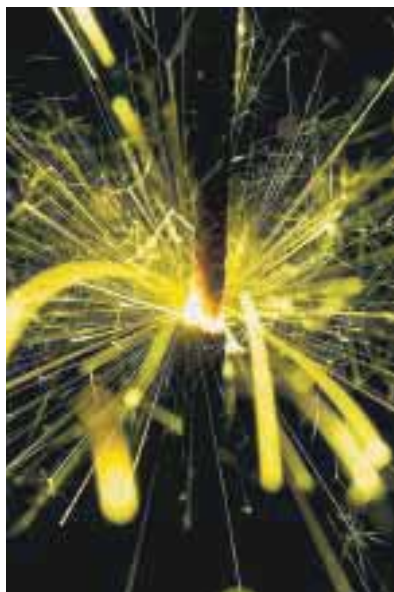
Halloween's origins are in the pagan religion which was once the only religion in Britain, until the Romans instigated their form of early Christianity, but when they left in the middle of the fourth century, those that remained harked back to paganism for more than 150 years.

With the re-emergence of Christianity with St Augustine's arrival in Canterbury in 597 AD, pagan beliefs were again banished.

With most of us having forgotten the true meaning of the festival, join Canterbury Ghost Tour on Halloween weekend and find out what we have been missing out on over the years.

Discover the true dangers that were said to lurk within the minds of those who consorted with witches and demons. John Hippisley claims to have the answers to these and many other intriguing questions.

Visit www.canterburyghosttour.com for more information.



DUNORLAN PARK FIREWORKS

Have a great time and help others

THE fireworks display at Dunorlan Park is Tunbridge Wells Round Table's biggest event of the year, and the biggest event in the town's calendar, taking place on Saturday November 5.

The Round Table has been running the display since 1957, and is held with the backing of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The display itself is performed by professional fireworks personnel.

As well as being a great evening out the event is a major source of funding for local charities and other worthy causes.

Last year, more than

£35,000 was raised and this was used to help disadvantaged children at Christmas.

So the event is a great opportunity to enjoy yourself with family and friends while at the same time making a contribution to some of the less advantaged members of the community.

Following the fireworks display the club will be requesting applications for funding, and further details will be released at a later date.

Ticket Prices: Advanced £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for children (on the gate): £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for children (under-fives free).



KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



New arrivals Port Lympne youngsters

Lympne, nr Hythe
Open 10am-5pm
Phone 01303 264 647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

DELIGHTED staff at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Ashford announced two more new arrivals this month as a baby waterbuck and a baby bison were born at the

park. Hoofstock keeper, Bob Savill, said: "It's fantastic to have two new additions to these respective herds. Both of them are doing well and will be definitely on view over the October half term."

Port Lympne is home to a herd of 10 European bison or 'wisent' as they are sometimes known.

This species was once widespread throughout Europe and parts of Northern Asia, but by 1900 hunting for skins, horns and sport had driven the animals to virtual extinction in the wild.

Prof's Shell Grotto event Magic lanterns

Walpole Bay Hotel, Margate
Thursday, November 10, 7pm
www.shellgrottofriends.org
Phone 01843 220008

PROFESSOR Heard travels around the world exhibiting his remarkable collection of hand-painted and photographic magic lantern slides, originally designed for the amusement and instruction of Victorian and Edwardian audiences.

This special show features curious examples of classic Victorian entertainment. Professor Heard said: "Misadventures at Margate was one of the most popular magic lantern stories of the Victorian era. I can't wait to perform it in Margate using the original images." Other optical surprises include bearded ladies, alphabetical acrobats, prodigious pigs, baby juggling, weird feature film advertisements and other 'bizarre' pictorial delights. Suitable for ages 7 and over. All proceeds from the night will go to the Friends of the Shell Grotto.



Exhibition of new work Students' art Unfolds

The Pie Factory, Broad Street, Margate
November 5-15
Open Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm
www.unfoldmargate.co.uk

UNFOLD is an exhibition of new works by Masters students currently studying on the MA fine art course at the University for the Creative Arts in Canterbury. Showcasing an exciting variety of work, this exhibition shows off a variety of creative disciplines and explores the role of critical studies in contemporary art practice. The exhibition incorporates a variety of media approaches and the work on show includes printmaking, painting, sculpture, textiles, photography, film and video. Exhibiting artists include Hermione Allsopp, Liz Awodeyi, Jihun Baek, Kate Beugie, Elizabeth Burman Smith, Victoria Fountas, and Bea Lacey.

Have a merry Quexmas Festive fair

Quex Park, Birchington
Sunday, November 27
Phone 01843 842 168
www.quexmuseum.org

ONCE again as part of the Birchington Village Christmas Weekend, the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park, Birchington invites you to join them for the annual Quexmas

Craft Fair to be held on Sunday, November 27, from 11am to 5pm.

Based on the success of last year's popular event, this Christmas promises to be even better, with more stalls from all over Kent selling a wide range of quality festive gifts ideal for that important Christmas stocking.

Visit Santa in his grotto and enjoy performances by the choir of Birchington Primary School and the Quexmas Singers. Admission will be £2 per adult, which will include entry into the prize draw.



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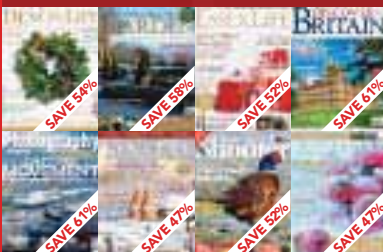
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Opens 2pm; firework display starts at 5.30pm. The castle itself will be closed.

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All tickets must be pre-booked, booking fee applies.
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The three Musketeers 3D (12a)
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Tin Tin (pg)
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SKET (15)
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NEWBIES
Tin tin 2D(pg)
Sarah's key (12a)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

**For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go
to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421**



EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Reflections exhibition

The Blake Gallery, Gravesend
November 23 – 30
Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm
www.gravesham.gov.uk

A NEW joint exhibition is being unveiled at The Blake Gallery showcasing a variety of expressive works that focus on mood and colour. Portsmouth-born artist Marion Smith joins Kevin Clarkson, an artist originally from Yorkshire, to exhibit a collection of work jointly titled 'Reflections', at the gallery in Gravesend.

Marion Smith, who has lived and worked in Rochester since the mid 1970s, paints a mixture of abstract and traditional art which depict Kentish landmarks and seasonal changes.

Kevin Clarkson spent 30 years as a designer and illustrator in London but in 2010 decided to pursue his artistic passion. The pair will showcase the art for a week before moving on.

Exploring the feeling of free

Canterbury, Gulbenkian
November 3, 01227 769075
Folkestone, Quarterhouse
November 19, 01303 858500

COMING to Kent next month is a stage production designed to explore the different natures of freedom and what it means to be free. The provocative show also

looks at the lengths individuals will go to protect themselves at the expense of others. The story follows a family of farmers from the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan who fall foul of local criminals. The group lie and pretend they have mafia connections to protect themselves. Meanwhile, one of the family members heads to the UK to study at university, where he falls in love. The show is sure to tug on a few heartstrings and provoke some interesting thoughts for the audience.



Display spans six decades

Alex Katz

**Turner Contemporary,
Margate sea front**
turnercontemporary.org
Phone 01843 233 000

ALEX Katz is one of the most important and respected living American artists. Next year Katz will celebrate his 85th birthday and with it a career that spans a remarkable six decades. For his new exhibition at Turner Contemporary in Margate, Katz will bring together more than 30 canvases, collages and cut-outs that highlight the full breadth of his creative career from the 1950s to his recent work. To accompany the Kent exhibition Katz has also made available a selection of his favourite works from the Tate Collection. Artwork drawn from a range of British, European and American artists, Alex Katz has brought together a selection of pieces for this special display. The much anticipated show will stay open and free to the public for the foreseeable future.



Gunpowder, treason & plot

Quex Park, Birchington
Saturday, November 5
www.quexpark.co.uk
Phone 01843 842168

KENT Events holds its fourth annual Bonfire and Fireworks event at Quex Park Birchington. This charity event supports Demelza House, AZAR and Cancer Research

UK who this year are providing additional outlets for tickets. This year in addition to a fun-fair, licensed bar and various refreshment stalls, there will be live music throughout the night. Soul-funk group EK1 will play live as will Kent Boys The Cojones. This is all in addition to a full 20-minute firework display provided by local company Theatrical Pyrotechnics taking place in front of Quex Manor House. Gates open at 4pm, live music from 6.30-7.30pm and 8-9pm. Fireworks from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 for adults and £6 for children

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STAGE & ARTS

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Half a Sixpence A family affair in Ramsgate

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
November 8-12
Phone 01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

IT WILL be a family affair when Ramsgate Operatic Society perform Half a Sixpence at the Granville Theatre next month. Husband and wife team, Justine and Stephen Foster, are playing Arthur and Ann Kipps in the show, and real-life daughter Daisy is playing their stage daughter. Set in Folkestone, this musical comedy revolves around Arthur Kipps, a shop boy who comes into an unexpected fortune. Dealing with old and new friends, money and the love of two women provides the background for comic situations and a wealth of great songs that include Flash Bang Wallop, and If the Rain's Got to Fall. The show includes another mother-and-daughter team with Barbara Aster and Melanie-Ann Aster playing Mrs Walsingham and her daughter, Helen. Tickets £11, children £5.



Some Like It Hotter, Live Stars are back

Theatre Royal, Margate
Saturday, November 5, 7.30pm
theatreroyalmargate.com
Phone 0845 130 1786

THINGS are warming up this bonfire night as the Theatre Royal in Margate goes back to a more glamorous time with Some Like it Hotter. At long last funnyman Jack

Lemmon and the incomparable Marilyn Monroe are reunited with old friend Tony Curtis. What is going on I hear you ask? There is a brand new, fast-moving, fantasy comedy whisking three screen icons back to their most beautiful, sexy and hilarious selves as they are forced once again to don heels and stockings and remake one of the best loved classic Hollywood star-studded comedies. Suitable for children aged 14 and over. Tickets cost £14.

'Zeppelin' live Top tribute to rock legends

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Thursday, November 10
www.leascliffhall.co.uk
Phone 0844 871 3015

CLIMBING the stairway to Folkestone, with long hair and glam outfits in tow, top tribute band Hats Off To Led Zeppelin will rock The Leas Cliff Hall on November 10.

Featuring Peter Eldridge, from West End musical We Will Rock You as lead singer Robert Plant, the group really recreate that Zeppelin sound and are looking forward to another UK tour.

Just two weeks ago, Warren Grant the son of legendary Led Zeppelin manager Peter Grant, gave the lads in the band the thumbs up and said they were doing the infamous Zeppelin justice in their polished tribute act.

For more information visit www.hatsofftiledzeppelin.co.uk.



Troggs & The Animals Sixties wild things live

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, November 11
Phone 01892 530613
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

THE band behind one of the most famous British songs of all time will tour the UK as part of a sixties extravaganza, hitting the Assembly Hall Theatre along the way. Wild Thing by The Troggs was the soundtrack to a generation and the lads have joined forces with six of the most influential forerunners of British rock including Spencer Davis and The Animals for some sixties magic. The Animals, who sung We Gotta Get Out of This Place, still features co-founder John Steel who has released a new version of the old classics. He said: "It was great fun to record songs that were the soundtrack of our early teenage years. It was good to kick them around and give them a new twist."

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Advertiser's Announcement

LSL LAND AND NEW HOMES EXPANSION LEADS TO APPOINTMENT OF THREE LOCAL MANAGERS

As one of the leading property service providers in the UK, and owners of high street estate agency brands, Your Move and Reeds Rains, the creation and recent expansion of a Land and New Homes Division was an obvious next step for LSL Property Services (LSL) <http://www.lslps.co.uk/>. And, it's this expansion that has led to the recent appointment of three new LSL Land and New Homes Managers in the region.

Based in Canterbury Regional Managing Director, Andrew Bill, has more than 25 years experience in the market, working for the last 10 years as a land and new homes director for a large independent agent covering Kent and Essex. His role will be to drive business opportunities in the area and promote to developers and buyers alike the significant benefits of using LSL Land and New Homes. Andrew joins Simon Alff and Kay Clarke in their roles as Business Development Managers.

Simon, who has already built a substantial portfolio of land sources and developer contact across the region, will be based in Tunbridge Wells and will operate within the South Kent

and East Sussex regions. Kay, however, will be based in Rochester to cover the North Kent and South London areas drawing on her vast experience in advising developers on appropriate sales and marketing campaigns.

Their appointments compliment LSL's view that the land and new homes market will expand rapidly in the next year having seen the number of land banks in the UK rise significantly over the last 18 months. It's this belief that has led LSL to increase spending in the division by 60% and treble the division's workforce to service, in particular, the demand for undeveloped plots and new-build properties. The launch of a dedicated LSL Land and New Homes website <http://www.lsllandandnewhomes.co.uk/> adds to the increased focus on the division.

David Newnes, estate agency managing director of LSL Property Services, owners of Your Move and Reeds Rains says:

"We are committed to growing this part of our business because it's already showing signs of recovery. Following the UK's emergence from recession, 2010 was the first year since 2005 when homebuilding starts increased. Berkely Group is predicting a 5% rise in property prices as a result of short supply of new-builds, which indicates the market is set for healthy growth in the coming months and years."

"While many companies have decided to scale back their land and new homes operations, we believe the short supply of housing in England and Wales, along with the government's newly announced FirstBuy scheme will drive demand for new build housing and make this a potentially lucrative area for both buyers and sellers."

"We've already quadrupled the size of our team in the south of England and have hired three new regional MD's to deal with strong demand for new build properties and undeveloped plots there."

The land and new homes team will offer a bespoke site sales service which takes advantage of LSL's 570 branches nation-wide to ensure the greatest possible exposure is given to new build properties across the country. LSL will also be offering support to developers interested in shared ownership, using the company's database of national portfolio buyers and extensive contacts with the building industry to put developers in touch with buyers looking for investment opportunities.

Andrew Bill added: "I truly believe that by combining our land and new home expertise with the high street presence of our Your Move and Reeds Rains sales teams, means that our division offers an unrivalled service for our developer clients whether they are nationally or locally based. Our extensive experience means that we are able to offer sales and marketing solutions for any land or development project and I know I, along with Simon and Kay, simply can't wait to join the local teams in promoting this and the wide ranging opportunities available from LSL."

For further details about LSL Land and New Homes please contact:

- **Andrew Bill** at Andrew.bill@lslnewhomes.co.uk, telephone number 01227 454 299 or 07854 679444,
- **Simon Alff** at Simon.alff@lslnewhomes.co.uk, telephone number 01892 546412 or 07891 426633, or
- **Kay Clarke** at Kay.clarke@lslnewhomes.co.uk, telephone number 01634 718031 or 07896 940673



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HOMES

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Making Christmas dreams come true with a new home

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WE all need cheering up in the cold winter months, so why not secure yourself a Christmas bonus with a new house at a discount price.

If you feel that in a downturn such a luxury is beyond you, think again. There are some amazing savings possible: mortgage repayments are at a record low; new homes are easy to maintain and cheap to run; and as for an investment – bricks and mortar have historically proved to be a safe place.

Hillreed Homes have been building homes for more than 30 years. They build conventional homes in a traditional manner with clever design layouts and are now offering opportunities to purchase one of their homes at amazing discounts.

Many of the developments have show homes and all have site sales offices, many of which are open seven days a week. In addition, Hillreed's comprehensive website www.hillreed.co.uk is full of information on location, availability, prices, styles, maps and site layouts.

Currently Hillreed are marketing at the following sites around the county:

- At **Kings Hill, near West Malling**, there are two-bedroom apartments at £194,950 with a discount of £8,000 for three-week exchange, £6,000 for four-week exchange, or £4,000 for five-week exchange.

- Three-bedroom semi-detached houses at £329,950 with reduction of £10,000 for three-week exchange, £8,000 for four-week exchange and £6,000 for five-week exchange.

- Detached four-bedroom house £444,950 with £12,000 reduction for three-week exchange, £10,000 for four-week exchange and £8,000 for five-week exchange.

- At the **Water Tower site in Loose** there are two detached four-bedroom houses at £339,950 and £385,000 with discounts of up to £12,000.

- At **Oast Court Farm, West Malling**, there is a five-bedroom oast house, £850,000 with discount of up to £20,000

- At **Kemsing** there are two four-bedroom detached houses each at £640,000 with discount of up to £15,000.

- In **Wigmore** there is a four-bedroom detached house at £354,950 with discounts of up to £10,000.



FESTIVE CHEER: There are great discounts to be had, but don't delay snapping up a Christmas bonus

- Outside Kent, Hillreed have a property at **Medstead**, Hampshire, a four-bed detached house at £569,950, with up to a £20,000 discount.

- There is a four-bed detached house at £395,000 and £429,950 with discounts of up to £10,000 in **Billingshurst** in Sussex and also three-bedroom terraced houses at £244,950 and £249,950, with

discounts of up to £6,000 at Pease Pottage.

For those not in a position to exchange quickly to secure a discount there is the opportunity to take advantage of Hillreed Homes' part exchange scheme.

Full information on the discounts and part exchange scheme can be found at www.hillreed.co.uk or by calling on site and talking it through

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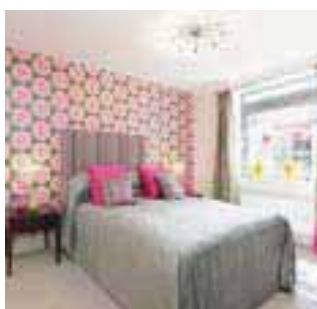
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*With the FirstBuy scheme you can purchase your new home for just 80% of the full value through a mortgage and minimum 5% deposit. The outstanding balance is financed through an 'equity loan' funded by Kier Homes & the HCA, which is interest free for the first 5 years. The outstanding balance is paid back as a percentage of the Open Market Value after 25 years or subsequent re-sale, whichever occurs earliest. FirstBuy is available on selected properties only. Subject to status. Terms & conditions apply, please refer to your Sales Advisor for more details. Prices correct at time of press. Travel time from Google maps. Photography of Blue Quarter.



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Elderly to reap benefits of £4m community project

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A £4 MILLION project that will provide 33 new flats for older people and a base for services for the wider local community is nearing completion in Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells.

Designed in consultation with residents and the local community, Simmonds Court in the high street will provide 27 two-bedroom flats and six one-bedroom flats.

The two-bedroom flats will allow family members and carers to stay and to help look after residents, with eight groundfloor flats having been adapted for wheelchair-users.

They are being allocated through Kent Homechoice choice-based lettings scheme. Residents are expected to move in next month.

A development by Town and Country, Simmonds Court will also be used by residents and local people as it has a



MODERNISE: Simmonds Court

large lounge and kitchen, together with hairdressing facilities and a garden.

The Homes and Communities Agency, the Government's national housing and regeneration agency, provided £1.5m in grant-funding for the project, which replaced previous facilities that had been deemed inadequate.

Rachel Murphy, Town and Country's head of housing options, said: "The project is part of our Older Persons' Strategy to modernise our

sheltered accommodation and provide everyone with self-contained facilities.

"It will also offer a wonderful central location for other agencies to provide their services to residents in the Rusthall area.

"The previous Simmonds Court was seen locally as 'the place where the old people live' – this will be a building for the whole community.

"That's particularly important in Rusthall because the village has a large number of extended families and they often rely on grandparents for childcare.

"Simmonds Court is next to the village primary school, so grandparents will be able to collect children and look after them in what will be a very bright and welcoming building."

The first two community organisations that will use Simmonds Court are Age Concern and Rusthall Parish Council.

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HOMES

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Loft conversion or an extension the best ways to increase house price

By **Jeremy Gates**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN extension or loft conversion which creates a double bedroom with its own bathroom can bump up the value of a home by nearly a quarter – and is the single most effective home improvement project which most owners can carry out, says a survey.

Research by Nationwide Building Society suggests a 10 per cent increase in floor space adds five per cent to the price of a typical home, and an extra bedroom is usually an effective use of your money.

While moving up from a three-bedroom house to a four-bedroom, two-bathroom property costs an average £40,000 a loft conversion or other extension can be accomplished for possibly £30,000-£35,000.

But the extra bathroom is the critical point; an extra bedroom, by itself, adds only 12



CLEANING UP: An extra bathroom could be key to improving the asking price for your home

per cent to average price.

Nationwide figures show the gap in value between three and four-bedroom homes widens as buyers come southwards: and in Kent and the South East it is £42,017.

Builders, short of work, offer competitive quotes, while the 30 per cent surge in remortgages confirmed by the

Council of Mortgage Lenders suggests many homeowners could have raised finance for building work.

In July, Nationwide said a record 19 per cent of further advances given to existing borrowers were used to pay for structural improvements, such as extensions and loft conversions. More than 10 per cent of

remortgages were used to help fund similar structural work.

Nationwide chief economist Robert Gardner said: "Households are happy to pay for more space, and our analysis suggests that, providing the room is usable, adding an extra bedroom can be a good way to increase the value of a home.

"While larger properties cost most to buy, smaller ones tend to have a higher price per square metre. This marginal cost falls in part because it is relatively cheaper to build larger properties."

Nationwide's report also says energy efficiency is a growing issue for buyers, with Government figures suggesting more than 19 million homes could benefit from at least one of the improvements recommended through the energy performance certificate required when a home is sold.

Improvements in this area include loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and better boilers.

TEMPTME

Over the coming weeks, **Martin Cunningham** MNAEA, commercial director of Archant's property portal, **homes24.co.uk**, introduces the useful new website tools and functionality built into homes24, now powered by **Zoopla**

TEMPTME is a free service on the homes24.co.uk website that allows homeowners to post a price for their UK property that could tempt potential buyers into negotiations.

The TemptMe function is a great way for homeowners to fish for market interest in their property without formal marketing.

If buyer interest is forthcoming, professional estate-agency members of the Zoopla network are on hand to get engaged in the transaction and offer their expert assistance.

You can find TemptMe at <http://bit.ly/TemptMe>, or scan the QR code at the top of the page.

Until next week...
Martin



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EMOTIVE: Range Rover's all-new Evoque should please off-road fans, and drives just as well on the road as off it

Thinking small Evoques radical new Range Rover

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVOQUE by name and evoke by nature – that's the new baby Range Rover.

For the new arrival in the luxury 4x4 family really does evoke opinion and emotion.

Despite a typically chunky Range Rover front end, its sleek body gets people talking, whether it's the low roof three-door coupé or more practical, slightly more upright five-door version.

It's already prompting debate too about why the ultimate 4x4 brand is offering a front-wheel drive only version.

But those marketing brains behind the clever Evoque label will surely retort that specialist brands must diversify to survive, and this more eco-friendly, fuel-efficient model will surely recruit new buyers to the brand.

Anyway, marketing speak cannot cloud the fact that most Land and Range Rovers never truly go off-road or even sniff true country air, hence the expression 'Chelsea Tractor'.

And the Evoque should please urban Land/Range Rover fans since, unlike its bigger brethren, this is a proper 4x4 that can also be piloted in town with ease.

But Land Rover reckons most Evoque buyers

will be new to its two brands, and I bet many will be 'other halves' who can see how the Evoque neatly compliments the old man's Range Rover Sport, Discovery, or whatever.

For the Evoque really is a 4x4 that can climb a rutted hillside track or cross a muddy field – as proved on the test drive – yet be equally at home in town, diving into a parking space at Waitrose... sorry, I can't see Evoque buyers shopping at Aldi.

Judging by the 4x4 versions I drove – two-wheel drive examples weren't available – the car has exemplary handling for a still relatively high vehicle with decent ground clearance, though I take issue with the coupé's letterbox rear windows; a 4x4 USP is excellent views for passengers, but youngsters in the back of an Evoque won't get much of that – even perched on booster seats.

And while so much of the stunning 2008 LRX concept car transferred to the production Evoque, the minimalist door mirrors did not; the Evoque has a pair like elephant ears that create a blind spot in certain situations.

Engine choice for now is largely between the smooth and punchy 150 and 190bhp diesels; you can have a silky 240bhp petrol unit, but it doesn't really make economic or ecologic sense.

RANGE ROVER EVOQUE

1ST DRIVE

Price:
£27,955-39,995

Driving appeal:
★★★★★

Image:
★★★★★

Space:
★★★

Value:
★★★★

Running costs:
★★★

Reliability:
★★★★

How green?:
★★★

Best rival:
Audi Q5

Safety first Civic changes tack for ninth generation

ORDER books have opened for the ninth generation Honda Civic which, like its predecessor, will also be built in the UK at Swindon.

While the new car, due in showrooms in January, echoes the mould-breaking and aerodynamic looks of its predecessor, it is less likely to divide opinion.

The Japanese marque has toned down the space age detailing inside and out and gone for a more crowd-pleasing approach.

However, it has taken a cutting-edge line on safety, with additional attention to distributing impact forces away from the cabin and also working to protect pedestrians and cyclists in an accident, with features such as windscreen wiper pivots designed to break away on impact, and energy absorbing front-wing mounts.

Prices for this descendant of the original 1972 Civic start at £16,495 and the engine options at launch are 1.4 or 1.8 petrol, or 2.2

diesel, with a fuel-saving stop/go system on manual versions. A five-inch dashboard screen shows mpg, stop/go status, climate and audio settings. There is also an ECON mode to save fuel as seen on the Jazz Hybrid and Insight.

The range-topper for now will be the £26,595 diesel 2.2 i-DTEC EX GT – Honda hasn't revealed yet whether a Type-R performance flagship will be built to replace the current version.

Standard kit on entry level SE models includes that dashboard screen as well as 16-inch alloys, automatic air-conditioning and USB connectivity for compatible MP3 audio devices.

At the other end of the range in EX GT trim, buyers get keyless entry/ignition, front and rear parking sensors, bi-xenon headlights and lumbar support, panoramic glass roof, 17-inch alloys, privacy glass and auto-dimming rear-view mirror.



FIRST AID: Civic works to protect pedestrians in an accident



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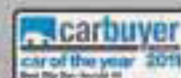
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Models shown: Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,895 OTR including a £1,300 customer saving. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 dr at £7,995 OTR including a £1,750 customer saving. Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 hatchback at £8,995 OTR including a £4,585 customer saving. Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. 3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing, whichever occurs sooner is available to private retail customers only on all Hyundai i20 models registered between 1st July and 31st October 2011. Servicing can be carried out by any Hyundai dealer in accordance with the Manufacturer's servicing schedule for the specific vehicle. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st July and 31st October 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers with the exception of the Hyundai i20 3 years* free servicing offer. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty or ask your local dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km



Micra goes supercharged

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN Nissan's new supercharged Micra arrived, my motoring taste buds went into a confused state of anticipation.

Supercharging usually means excitement, imparting extra power by whacking more oxygen into combustion – though not without making the engine thirstier.

But supercharging a Micra? Worthy though it is as an A-to-B motor, the lines of the latest and fourth generation Micra supermini mark a return to the normality of the original 1980s car after the Mark II and III styling experiments in between – I just couldn't picture it with mad wheels, a bonnet scoop for the supercharger and go-faster stripes.

In any case, 'look at me' duties in Nissan's small car line-up have gone to its bulldog-like SUV supermini, the Juke.

And while this latest version of the Micra does indeed carry a supercharger, I find it's there to promote economy. What?

In fact, the Micra DIG-S (direct injection gasoline – supercharged) uses a less common combustion process known as the Miller cycle, which integrates a supercharger to improve efficiency across the board.

As a result, this Micra version can average around 65mpg officially and emits just 99g/km of CO2 – low enough to escape road tax and the London Congestion Charge. In doing so, it becomes the latest and perhaps most impressive petrol-powered supermini to go green.

This trend looks good to me as I've long argued that putting a diesel into a small car is a nonsense, even if diesel delivers more mpg; the engine is relatively heavy, which destroys small car nimbleness and wears front-end mechanicals and tyres faster, while also adding too much to the more modest purchase price of a city car or supermini.

NISSAN MICRA DIG-S TEKNA: PRICE £13,650

FACT FILE



Image: ★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★★★★

Road tax: £ zero

Best rival: Skoda Fabia Greenline II

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NEAT AND NIMBLE: Nissan's new Micra DIG-S integrates a supercharger to improve efficiency, a process known as the Miller cycle

And the DIG-S doesn't have any obvious drawbacks. It has the same relatively big capacity 1.2-litre engine as all other Micras, but just three cylinders make it light and compact.

Nissan has also added a fuel/emissions-saving stop/start system to kill and re-start the DIG-S engine when the car is in the city or stuck in a jam.

And while the supercharger is not there to deliver an exhilarating surge of power, it makes the car lively when you want it to be – 0-62mph in 11.3 seconds is impressive for a car so green – though, as ever, official consumption figures go out of the window if you drive it hard.

However, as with the basic petrol-versus-diesel question, you must do your sums before opting for this Micra over a standard one; the DIG-S package (from £11,150) adds £1,500 to the Micra deal so you have to weigh the miles you cover in a year and take into account small savings on road tax.

Then again, with the standard car being more than two seconds slower to 62mph, you might want the DIG-S version's extra dash for emerging from junctions – I would.

Which leaves the general argument for buying a Micra; a marvellously functional and roomy five-door car, though rather dull after two distinctive predecessors.

The driver thrills are modest, but it rides well enough for this class and promises to be reliable, but it is a world car for Nissan – UK cars are made in India – so it suffers from a 'one-size-fits-all' approach that sadly echoes the 'boring Nissan' tag the brand has done so much to shake off.

Buy one as a runabout though and you won't be disappointed, especially in DIG-S form, but avoid the £13,650 gin palace Tekna flagship we drove and go for a lower yet still well equipped DIG-S grade starting from £11,150 – I would opt for middling Acenta (from £12,150) which includes electric mirrors and alloys.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Retro star gets Porsche looks

ORDER books are open for the all-new VW Beetle (from £16,490) and are expected to fill fast for this latest retro star.

While its predecessor was a genteel take on the Porsche-designed 1930s original, the latest Beetle is more coupé in style, echoing the Porsche brand itself. The car arrives next spring, with turbocharged 1.2 or 1.4-litre engines initially.



Hot hatch with green ideals

QUESTION: when is an eco-friendly hybrid a hot hatchback? Answer: when it's the F-Sport version of the Lexus CT 200h (from £27,850).

The newcomer, due next spring, has all the fuel-saving tricks of the existing car, but comes with a sports chassis, larger rear spoiler, flared side skirts, mesh grille, revised bumpers and 17-inch dark alloys.



Winter tyres Skoda's deal

SKODA says winter tyres would have been more effective than regular tyres on 147 days of last year.

And it's putting its money where its mouth is by offering sets of winter tyres for as little as £248 via participating dealers. At temperatures below 7°C, the softer compound and special tread of winter tyres are better for grip and braking.

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MOTORING

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As good as new, says What Car?

By Sam Davison

editorial@archant.co.uk

BRITISH-BUILT cars picked up top awards at the What Car? Used Car of the Year Awards 2011, with the Sunderland-made Nissan Qashqai taking the overall title and 'best used small family car'.

Jaguar's XF, built in Birmingham, was the other star Brit-motor after taking 'best used executive and luxury car'.

Chas Hallett, What Car? editor-in-chief, said: "The quality of these cars was great when they were new, and three years later they make unbeatable value used buys."

The Qashqai won the judges' favour with its styling, price, family friendly cabin, maximum five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating, comfortable ride, low running costs, and dependability.

The Jaguar XF was commended for desirability and sophistication, enabling it to fight off fierce competition from the German premium big three Mercedes-Benz, Audi and BMW.

Though Ford doesn't now actually make any cars in the UK, it scored a hat-trick: last year's overall winner, the Ford Mondeo, was voted 'best used family car'; the Ford Fiesta was 'best used supermini'; and the Ford S-Max took 'best used MPV'.

"Ford deserves a special mention because it is producing well-designed, well-built cars in many categories. Used Fords are going to be extremely popular with used buyers," said Hallett.



Volkswagen won two awards – the Golf in 1.6 TDI SE five-door spec was voted 'best used green car' while the Passat Estate was 'best used estate'.

Hyundai underlined its growing clout in the UK market with an award though, surprisingly, it was for one of its older yet still impressive models – the seven-seat Santa Fe, which took 'best used SUV' – while 'best used sports car' went to the Porsche Boxster.

The awards judging was based on running costs, reliability, driveability, quality, longevity, safety features and desirability.

BEST BUYS:

Clockwise, from top left, winner of the overall What Car? title was the Nissan Qashqai; Ford Fiesta was best supermini; and Jaguar's XF executive star





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Offers valid until 31 December 2011, at participating dealers only. Finance is available subject to status and eligible new vehicles in the UK. Offer available on Micra 1.2 Visia only. Guarantees and roadside help for required. Finance provided by RCI Finance Services Limited, PO Box 140, Watford WD21 1PS. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (including Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. 3 years free servicing available on new Micra and NOTE and low cost servicing is available on other models. Fleet available in conjunction with any scheme or other offers, please read your vehicle offers carefully or visit local dealer for information. Residuals are estimates provided by RAC, Motoring Research and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and road tax (based on current information correct at time of going to print). Any models shown are for illustration purposes only and subject to availability. Please check our website for full details. VME, Nissan Motor (UK) Ltd, The Nissan Centre, Brooklands Way, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3ET.

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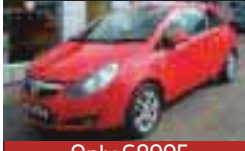
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2001 Daewoo Lanos 3 dr hatchback, Blue, 1 owner from new	£1395
1997 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 Bermuda, met green sporty coupe, tax and MOT	£1295
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2001 Honda CR-V 2.0 Auto 4x4, silver, black interior, immaculate condition	£3995
2001 Suzuki Grand Vitara SWB 3 dr AUTO, silver, e/w, C/L, PAS, only 36,000 MILES FROM NEW	£2995
2001 Land Rover Freelander 1.8 IEs 5 dr 5 sp manual, blue with grey leather trim, low mileage	SOLD £2995
2003 Citroen Xsara Picasso DIESEL	£2895
2001 Mitsubishi Space Cruiser 7 seater Estate, Silver, Grey Cloth trim, Low Mileage,	£1795

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1997 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Ghia 5 dr hatchback, met red, very clean, low tax and insurance,	£995
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1998 Vauxhall Corsa Merit, 1.2, low tax and insurance model, Blue, grey cloth trim,	£995
2001 Citroen Xsara 5 dr Hatchback alloys, met green, grey velour trim, taxed until July 2012	£995
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*Price shown is for Savvy Style 1.2 MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. *Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules, 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. *FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered from 22nd September 2011 until 31st October 2011 and available for the first owner only.

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'There's no reason why Kent cannot get back to become a force in county cricket'

INSIDE SPORT

WITH KENT CRICKET CAPTAIN **ROB KEY**

BEING re-appointed as Kent captain for 2012, my seventh year in the job, is not only a great privilege but also gives me the chance to lead the club out of its tough times and back to where we want to be – one of the strongest counties competing in English domestic cricket.

When you have experienced hard and difficult times, like the last two summers, you want people who will put in the hard yards and have a huge desire to make a big contribution to the improvements that must be made.

Personally, I want to lead from the front, as captain and batsman, and before my time is up I desperately want to see Kent getting back to where we have traditionally been in terms of being a real force in our game.

I also don't see any reason why we cannot do that. During the last couple of years there has been a very real sense around the club that the financial restrictions have dominated everything. It has been very difficult not to let that happen. But, towards the end of last summer, with the redevelopment work at Canterbury starting at last and the financial situation easing, I think there was a real shift in mood.

The team showed real character, for instance, after the shock of our Twenty20 Cup quarter-final defeat at Leicestershire, to bounce back with a run of victories in both County Championship and Clydesdale Bank 40 matches. In the closing weeks of the season I think you could see the younger players growing in stature and

providing a nice blend with the more experienced ones.

But injuries were a massive disruption to our season, too, and in 2012 I hope we don't have to go through that again. In some games earlier in the summer, especially on the bowling side, we were struggling even to get a fully fit second string attack onto the field. Our batting, however, should have been better, and that is something we must put right next summer.

For myself, I think the team is going to need some big runs from me. Thankfully my recent wrist operation has gone well and I am very much looking forward to starting next season pain-free and able to do myself justice again with the bat.

Last season, from about mid-July when I felt pain in my left wrist during my century against Surrey at the Oval, I only kept going for as long as I did due to cortisone injections and a determination that I would be available for the Twenty20 quarter-final and as much of the rest of the summer as possible.

6699

The senior players who remain at the club want to be a part of Kent's resurrection

KEY, ON GERAINT JONES



After scoring another hundred against Surrey, during Canterbury Week in early August, however, I found I literally couldn't hit a cricket ball without pain and when I discovered the ligaments in the wrist were ruptured there was no way I could go on.

It was hugely disappointing to miss the last part of the season but in truth I had played a few too many games and an operation was the only answer. I now have a cast on my wrist, which will stay on for eight weeks, but I will also be having regular rehabilitation work with a hand specialist in London and, luckily, the medical reconstruction to the wrist has not involved the insertion of any pins or wires so that should help the recovery process.

As has been well documented since the end of the season, there have been changes at the club with Paul Farbrace leaving on the management side and both Martin van Jaarsveld and Joe Denly deciding to join other clubs. From a personal point of view, I was very sorry to see both Jarre and Joe leave, as we now have some sizeable holes to fill in the top-order batting.

The club is currently seeking applications for the job of head coach, and that is a very prestigious position at any county cricket club. We want to make sure we get the best person for the job, and I am sure we will also be bringing some new players to the club during the winter.

But, as I've said, senior players who remain like myself, Geraint Jones, James Tredwell,

Darren Stevens and Azhar Mahmood very much want to be part of the resurrection of Kent County Cricket Club and, for all our players, I think going through the tough times will make us better for it when we come out the other side.

■ Rob Key, the Kent captain and former England batsman, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists

Pictures: ADY KERRY



REHAB: Rob Key is recovering from wrist surgery

TOURING CARS

Drive for success leads Motorbase to weigh up 'dream team' line-up

JAMES Thompson's appearance for Motorbase this month may not have been a one-off as they consider assembling a "dream team" for next season.

The two-time British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) winner joined the Wrotham-based team, who compete in the series as Airwaves Racing, for the final round at Silverstone. Although the 37-year-old did not have enough time to get up to speed to help their charge for multiple titles, his approach impressed everyone.

Discussions are taking place with potential investors over the next few weeks which will be critical to the budget for next season, but it is hoped Motorbase will again provide a credible challenge for honours.

Team manager Oly Collins admitted keeping Mat Jackson,



SUCCESS: James Thompson has won two BTCC titles

who was in contention for the overall drivers' title until fading late on, is a priority and did not rule out a return for Thompson next season.

"Very much so, Mat's

become a part of this team, there's no doubt about that," he said.

"He's an extremely talented driver as well as being very grounded. Both him and [team-mate] Liam have got on well together – Liam's massively benefitted from Mat's experience. It would be nice to keep them both together for next season.

"James is an unbelievable professional, one of the best out there. I think he proved that in race three [at Silverstone] where he had a fastest lap. One more week to prepare and he would have been up the front.

"You never know, we'd love to work with him again. If we could get him in the same team with Mat and Liam it would be a bit of a dream team."

MOTORSPORT

Steele's stunning year opens the door to Formula Two test in Spain

EXCITING opportunities lie ahead for Aaron Steele after completing an utterly dominant season in the F3 Cup last weekend.

The 22-year-old came from the back of the grid to win the last race at Oulton Park and claim his 14th victory in 18 outings.

Unsurprisingly named as the series' driver of the year, the Rochester driver has earned a place at a Formula Two test in Spain this winter. The news came on the back of winning the chance to drive in a support race to the famous 24-hour race at Daytona, Florida, in January.

Steele is level-headed about his prospects but is keen to impress in an F2 car.

He said: "I don't want to over-pressure myself but putting a bit on myself is a good thing. I do know going into it I really want to do a good job because without predicting the lottery results you never know what that could lead to."

The run of success came a year after fears his career was stalling amid a lack of funding. Steele paid special tribute to his father, Kevin, for getting him back on the grid.

He said: "It's been a fantastic year. Everybody's really had to work their socks off to get



CHAMPION: Aaron Steele dominated the F3 Cup

me out there and it's paid off.

"My Dad made the biggest sacrifice, he really stretched himself to buy the car. You feel the pressure of needing to do well but also to keep the car in one piece because you know it needed to be sold at the end of the year, so I have to be careful."

Picture: ANDREW CLIFFE

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

FA chairman backs youth plan on Kent trip but Gills admit concerns

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

A SCHEME to transform youth development was enthusiastically backed by the chairman of the Football Association on a visit to Kent – despite some lower league clubs warning it could end their programmes.

The Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) was voted through by the Football League last week amid reported threats from the Premier League that existing funding would be cut if it was not approved.

It will see Football League clubs receive an increase in the level of guaranteed funding for youth development. The disadvantage is they are likely to receive lower fees from big clubs for rising stars under 17, with the existing tribunal system replaced by fixed rates.

The central reason for the EPPP is to make it easier for the best players to be grouped together in large academies at an early age, which in theory will see more English players come through at the highest level.

David Bernstein visited Kent in his role as FA chairman last weekend and is very supportive of the proposals.

"If we're going to produce a larger number of world class young players, which we all desperately want, then we're going to have to have our best players training with the other best players in very strong academies," he said.

"It does have certain downsides for other clubs, but unfortunately in this world it's very difficult always to have upsides

**IMPRESSED:**

FA chairman David Bernstein's visit included watching Aylesford under-11s (in blue) take on Castle Colts

everywhere.

"One of the focuses has to be on getting a strong England team actually winning things. I desperately want this to happen so I think this is very much the right move."

Bernstein believes 80 per cent of the Football League clubs will benefit from the EPPP, but the news was received warily at Gillingham.

The club have a good reputation for nurturing young talent into the first-team and beyond, with four graduates now at Premier League clubs.

Bryan Bull, the Gills' centre of excellence manager, believes there are positives to the EPPP but also has concerns.

WEMBLEY FINAL MEMORIES

DAVID Bernstein believes Gillingham's play-off final defeat to Manchester City in 1999 was the most significant game in the Blues' history.

The Second Division play-off final is memorable for the Gills leading 2-0 after 89 minutes before a stunning comeback from City saw them win on a penalty shoot-out.

Bernstein was City chairman at the time and is certain the success Roberto Mancini's Premier League leaders are enjoying now would have been impossible without the victory.

"With a minute to go I was really, really worried about which way the club was going," he said.

"We were lucky enough to win that game and that enabled us to build a new stadium, which really was a pre-requisite for what's happened since, so that game was without any question the most important game in that club's history."

He said: "The reality is the club invests time and money to produce young players. If you look at [highly-rated] Ashley Miller, if he had gone to a Premier League club at 16 we would've received £71,000 under the new funding arrangements. For a boy that's been with us for nine years that wouldn't seem to be particularly fair.

"If that happened for two or three years running and the compensation doesn't cover what you're spending I'm sure clubs would consider if there was any point. It might take five years before we get to that, but it could happen."

Bernstein, who watched a

youth team game at Aylesford FC during his visit, was full of praise for the Kent County Football Association, describing it as an example to the rest of the country.

The 68-year-old's biggest concern in the existing economic climate is on the deterioration of pitches.

He said: "I understand the challenges councils have to face. They have limited budgets but I think it's so important for sport generally and football in particular that these facilities are looked after properly, because for sporting and social reasons it's so crucial that young people have a chance to play in decent facilities."

**NERVOUS:** Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler wants to play a league side after defeat to Dover last season

Athletic have every chance of being involved following a tie against Bath City.

The Whites sensationally knocked out Gillingham in the first round last year and Priestfield boss Andy Hessenthaler admitted he would rather be drawn against a fellow Football League club this time around.

He said: "We'd like to avoid non-league



Pictures: ADY KERRY

clubs because it's very difficult to play against them, especially at home because they raise their game and come back to bite you on the backside.

"Let's hope we get a nice draw, but we'll wait and see what happens on Sunday."

The draw is at 1.30pm, log on to www.kent-news.co.uk to see how Kent's sides got on.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH FRED ATKINS

In support of whistleblowers

“A KENT Senior Cup final in the late 1960s. The score is 1-0 in the dying moments when an attacker for the losing team finds himself in the penalty area with only the goalkeeper to beat.

He's cluttered by the chasing defender, but to the incredulity of the striker and the fury of half the crowd, the official waves play on and moments later blows the final whistle.

Some time later a fan of the vanquished team has a chance encounter with the referee and asks why he didn't give the penalty.

Smiling, but apparently not joking, the official replies: "Because I was too tired for extra time and wanted to go home."

Allegedly.

If there's any shock value in this possibly apocryphal tale it lies in its novelty.

The competence and parentage of the refereeing fraternity is questioned every weekend, but how many of them have ever deliberately attempted to pervert the outcome of a football match? And how many players and managers can say they haven't?

There's nothing morally questionable about fighting your team's corner if you do it in good faith. At Ramsgate, the familiar sight of Jim Ward bursting from the dug out to shout out "Ref-err-reeel" is a genuine reaction to events on the field and Ward is presumably shrewd enough to realise that constantly badgering an official is likely to be counter-productive.

It's a lesson his counterpart at Hythe, Scott Porter, might absorb after his touchline routine landed him a £300 fine and a three-match touchline ban earlier this season.

Porter, who regularly states his desire to avoid being "mugged off" does at least seem genuinely aggrieved but it would probably be wise for someone at Hythe to sit him down, if they haven't already, and point out that there isn't actually an FA conspiracy to defraud him of points.

There is orchestrated, co-ordinated cheating in football, but it comes exclusively from players who deliberately break the rules in multiple ways and the managers who instruct them to "take every advantage".

Watching a Kent League game a few years ago it became obvious that one team had a deliberate policy of questioning the officials' integrity at all times.

Every time a decision went against them, the entire bench would rise as one, with the manager screaming: "There's (sic) two teams in this referee!"

It wasn't "taking every advantage", it was humourless, aggressive bullying and I don't know what the flagging referee from the KSC final would have done but if the scores had been 0-0 and I'd been refereeing I'd have had no qualms about awarding their opponents an Old Trafford special. In the 12th minute of added time.

”

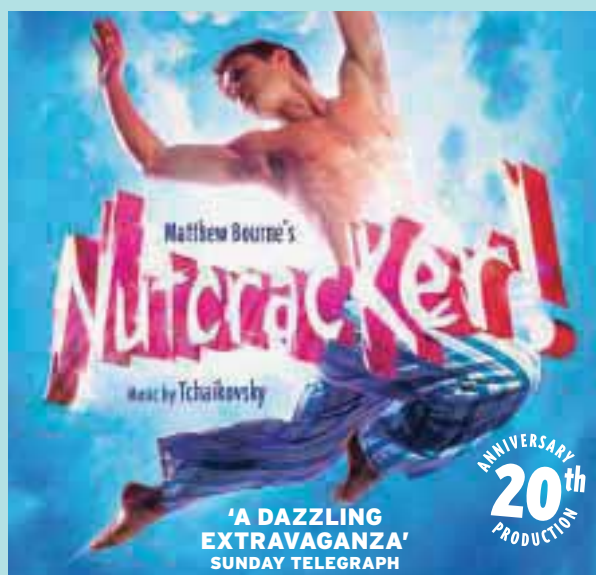
FA CUP

Quartet aiming to join big guns in FA Cup mix

THE draw for the FA Cup first round proper is made on Sunday lunchtime with several Kent clubs hoping to be in the hat.

Last year four of the county's non-league clubs made it to the hallowed stage and depending on results in Saturday's fourth round qualifying there could be a trio who will be hoping for a glamour tie against the likes of Charlton Athletic or Sheffield Wednesday.

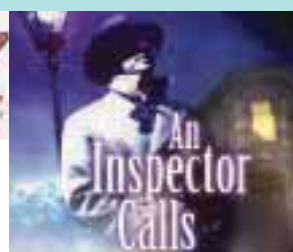
One non-league side is certain to make it through, with Dartford and Bromley meeting each other at Princes Park. Ebbsfleet United fans will be expecting to see their club in the mix after being paired with Ryman Division One North side Redbridge, while in-form Dover



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